

DN disabilitynow

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Equal frights

Disabled people risk "bitter disappointment" over government plans to create a single equality body to tackle all discrimination.

This warning came from the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) as Cabinet Minister Barbara Roche announced the biggest review of equality policy in over 25 years.

She is to head a government project to consider possible ways of creating a single equalities body. Firm proposals will be put forward in the autumn.

Ms Roche said that once employment rights are introduced on sexual orientation and religion in 2003 and on age in 2006, in line with an EU Employment Directive, it won't be possible to have six rights bodies. Besides the DRC, Britain has the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission, which tackles sex discrimination.

The DRC is demanding a

proper debate over whether such a body is necessary.

Bob Niven, chief executive of the DRC, warned that the government has not delivered on its commitment to expand the Disability Discrimination Act.

While he said there was potential for a new single body to promote equality for all, he added: "It is difficult to think of a new body where the scope for influence being exercised directly by disabled people would be as great as the DRC. I am sure only a minority of commissioners would be disabled."

Two-thirds of DRC commissioners are disabled.

Niven also said the government must not introduce a single body without introducing a single equalities act first. Otherwise, the groups repre-

sented by the new body would not have the same protection. Rights already vary under race, gender and disability laws.

Niven said: "You would get a body which is supposed to be promoting equality for all while, on the other hand, it would be operating a bag of legislation with considerable variations and gaps."

David Congdon, director of public affairs at Mencap, said: "There is a real danger that the rights of disabled people could be pushed to the back of the queue and downgraded."

Ms Roche said: "A more integrated approach to equality is not about ignoring the voices of any particular groups."

A new body would not be set up until after the next general election.



Kids' stuff: Joe Ridge, 6, of Surrey, was one of the children with learning disabilities who used Sutton Mencap's play scheme to attend a Teddy Bear's picnic, sponsored by Marks & Spencer.

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Put at risk

The lives of people with diabetes are being put at risk because of a shortage of specially trained doctors, a report has found.

A survey by Diabetes UK and The Royal College of Physicians, claims that the NHS is only training half the number of specialists needed to fill the spaces which NHS workforce advisors say it needs.

Diabetes UK chief executive Paul Streets said: "Without enough diabetes specialists in our hospitals, people will die unnecessarily."

On the ball

With World Cup fever mounting, Northampton beat Peterborough 3-2 in the Karl Waldren Cup Final in May.

The front cover shows Peterborough's Bobby Brackenbury beating Northampton's Steven Munnelly to the ball in the match, which was the culmination of a competition run by the National MultiDisabled Football League.

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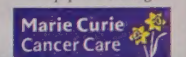
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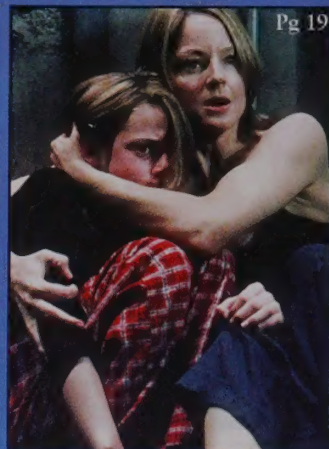
20 pull-out pages of motoring news, tips and comment about cars

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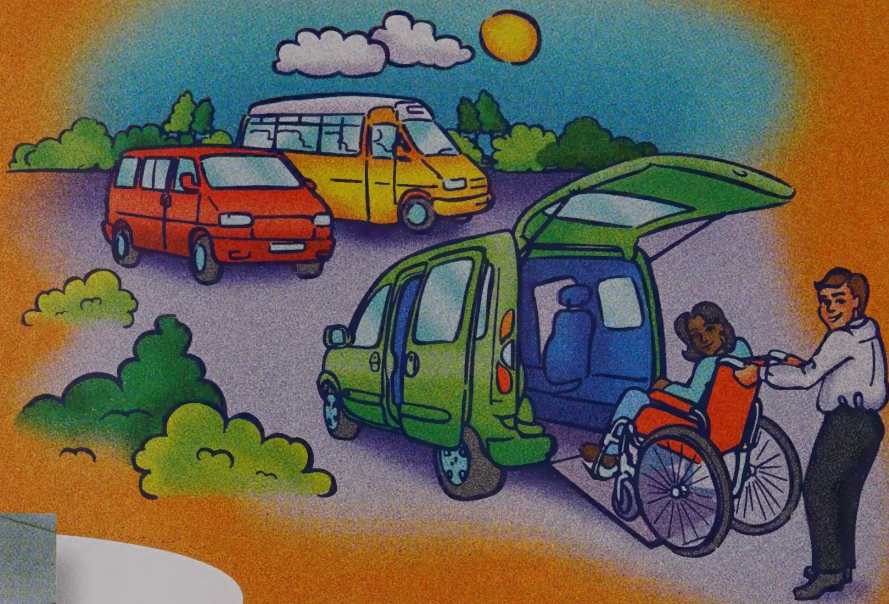
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FRONT COVER: STEVEN MUNNELLY (LEFT) AND BOBBY BRACKENBURY AT THE NATIONAL MULTIDISABLED FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP FINAL ON 14 MAY. PHOTO BY ANDRE CAMARA

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Child fracture call Teen wins case

A charity is demanding government action to prevent parents of children with a rare genetic condition being wrongly accused of abuse.

In the last eight years, more than 100 families of children with brittle bones, or osteogenesis imperfecta (OI), have faced such allegations.

Social workers and doctors often assume that babies and toddlers with multiple fractures have been violently assaulted, when the injuries are actually caused by OI. Many of the children are taken into care.

The issue was raised with

the Department of Health (DOH) by the Brittle Bone Society (BBS) in 2000, but until now it has failed to act.

A DOH spokeswoman said guidance would be issued to health professionals later this year on medical conditions that could be confused with child abuse, although she could not confirm whether these would include OI.

Actress Julie Fernandez, who has OI, said most professionals know very little about the rare condition and will not consider it as a possible explanation for multiple fractures.

Maggie Eaton, who set up the BBS Accused Parents Support Group eight years ago, said: "It is an extremely serious problem and it is getting worse by the day."

"We need people in government to sit down and listen to what happens in these situations and talk to families who have been through it and proved their innocence."

Raymond Lawrie, chief executive of the BBS, said: "If the government are finally going to address this problem this would be very welcome, but they have to recognise that other professionals will also need guidance."

A diabetic teenager has won £3,000 compensation after a Lancashire school banned him from a water sports trip.

Tom White, 16, was banned by Clitheroe Royal Grammar School from going on a trip to France in March 2000. This was because he had had a hypoglycaemic attack on a skiing trip the previous year.

The Judge at Preston County Court said the decision was "fatally flawed in the manner in which it was taken."

Tom White said: "If this pre-

vents any other disabled student from being discriminated against, it's all been worthwhile."

The teenager, backed by the Disability Rights Commission, was able to take action under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) because the holiday trip was classified as a service rather than educational. Education is not covered under the DDA.

This loophole will be closed when the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act comes into effect in September.

Equipment woes

Equipment services for disabled people have worsened since the publication of a critical report by the Audit Commission two years ago, according to a disability consortium.

Sam Gallop, chair of emPOWER, was speaking to DN after hosting a conference, which called on the government to introduce national standards for wheelchair, prosthetic and orthotic services.

The Audit Commission's *Fully Equipped* report had recommended the introduction of such standards in 2000.

It found long waiting times for equipment, and an unacceptable variation in services and eligibility throughout the country.

But Mr Gallop told DN: "Waiting times have got longer. You can't find any one person who is in charge of anything in the NHS."

An early day motion calling for national standards was launched after the conference by Labour MP Tony Colman.

A follow-up report to *Fully Equipped* is expected to be published this month.



Chef's Special: Celebrity chefs Patrick Williams (left) and Ainsley Harriott (right) met Brixton care home resident Angela Brown at the launch of a Relatives and Residents Association African Caribbean Cookbook. The book is aimed at care home chefs. To place an order, tel: 020 76924302.

In brief

Quick to get the axe

The government announced the abolition of the National Care Standards Commission, less than three weeks after its launch.

It will be merged with the Social Services Inspectorate to form the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Its health care role will pass to a Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection. But the changes will probably not take effect until 2004.

Higher ed gets a raise

The Higher Education Funding Council for England has announced a £6.6m fund to improve higher education provision for disabled students.

The money will help institutions which have little provision and experience in supporting disabled students. It will also help create specialist teaching materials and fund support during work placements. A special disability team will coordinate the work across institutions.

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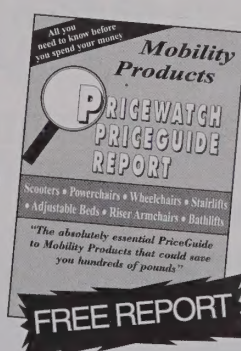
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A safety Net

People with learning disabilities can now report abuse over the internet, thanks to a charity website.

Respond's relaunched site includes a section designed for people with learning disabilities.

It will help those with milder disabilities find out about sexual or physical abuse, and where to go for help if they are being abused.

The site features photographs of two dolls portraying examples of abusive situations.

It also includes a free telephone helpline number and e-mail address, so a user can send a request for help straight to Respond, which offers counselling to people with

learning disabilities who have been abused.

Until now, the website and helpline have been used mostly by carers, relatives and professionals.

June Patterson, a service user from The Elfrida Society, a charity in north London, helped Respond redesign its website.

She said: "Bad things happen to people with learning disabilities and then we do not have a voice. Talking to someone can help if they believe you and you feel safe."

Respond's website is at www.respond.org.uk; call Respond's free helpline on 0808 8080700 between 1.30pm and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Figures spark fears

New government figures showing increased numbers of disabled people claiming benefits have sparked fears that Labour's plans to get more disabled people jobs will be ineffective.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) statistics show the number of sick and disabled people on key benefits rose by 54,000 between November 2000 and November 2001.

But the total number of people of working age claiming these benefits fell by 88,000.

One government scheme,

the New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) aims to get just 90,000 people on incapacity benefits into work over three years.

Shadow disabled people's minister Tim Boswell said the figures suggested "policy is going backwards".

A DWP spokeswoman said the increase was due to "demographic" factors and the NDDP was still in its early stages.

The government was unable to say how many of the 54,000 disabled people were on Incapacity Benefit.

Paul Matthews



David Colley writes:

Paul Matthews, the creator of what was once the UK's largest and most popular website for disabled people, DisabilityNet, sadly died on 21 April, aged 31.

The website, created in 1995, attracted 700 visitors a day but closed in 2000.

Paul was a valued member of several organisations: Muscle Power, Care for Independence (Derbyshire), Disability Direct and the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP).

He was passionate about the importance of information in liberating disabled people, and he continued to work hard to produce relevant and vital resources through newsletters as well as on the internet.

He became information officer for BCODP in November.

Paul quietly and calmly had a profound influence on thousands of disabled people in the UK and abroad. He is sorely missed.



Right royal treat: Royal-lookalike Jeanette Charles poured tea for Thomas Cunningham, 5, who has Down's syndrome, to help launch Down's Syndrome Awareness Week, 1-7 June.

Parking update



A police watchdog is to investigate an incident in which an officer allegedly parked in a disabled bay.

The policeman from Hertfordshire is said to have driven off over a disabled woman's toe after she confronted him outside the Tesco store (DN, April 2002).

Hertfordshire police has submitted a report to the Police Complaints Authority, which will carry out its own investigation.

Meanwhile, the RAC has

shown interest in backing the Baywatch parking campaign.

The campaign, which includes DN, is set to expand in a bid to protect disabled spaces on streets, not just in car parks.

DN editor Mary Wilkinson said it would seek support from central and local government, retailers, DN readers and Baywatch members.

She said: "Disabled people should be able to shop and go where they want, when they want, without worrying about parking."

We still need people to check their local supermarket for disabled parking bay abuse. To help, tel: 020 7619 7323 or e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk If you have already contacted us and are waiting for a date, don't worry, we'll be in touch soon.

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Motability bids sought

Disabled people may soon be able to buy cheaper cars, scooters and wheelchairs after a mobility charity opened one of its schemes to competition.

Motability has already invited tenders from organisations interested in providing finance for its Hire Purchase (HP) scheme for wheelchairs and scooters. At present, the charity's financial arm, Motability Finance Limited, provides the credit.

But APR on the scheme providing about 2,000 scooters and wheelchairs a year can range

between 11 and 51 per cent.

The APR for used cars can be as high as 31.5 per cent. This scheme provided about 3,000 new and used cars last year.

Noel Muddiman, director of Motability, told *DN* that it was likely to put the HP scheme for cars up for tender once lessons had been learned from the wheelchair and scooter process.

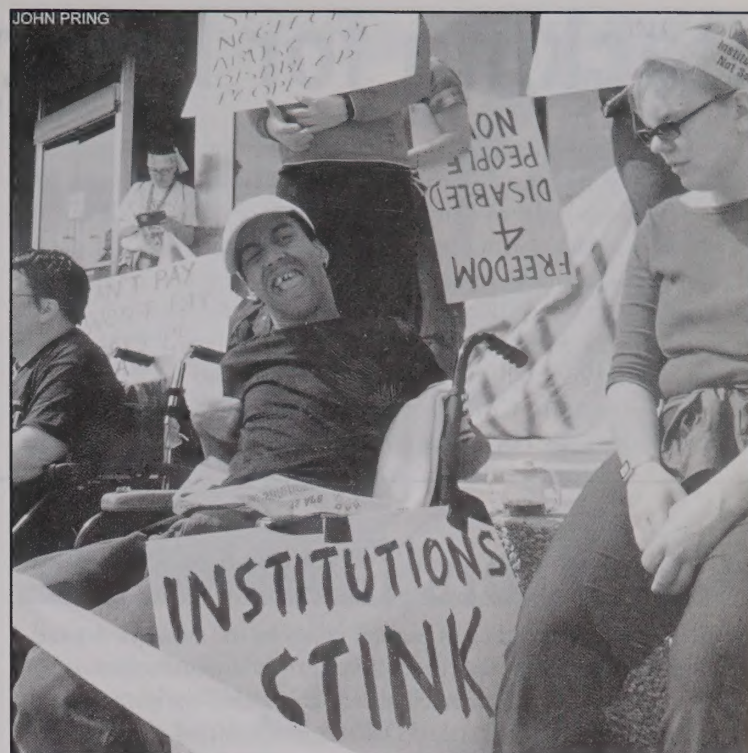
He said: "I am quite confident that we will go out to tender for the HP provision of motorcars on the scheme."

But he said the APR rates for

the current schemes included things like insurance, which guaranteed that unsuitable scooters or chairs could be returned and AA tests on cars. He said he would not allow a "fly by night" organisation offering cheap but low quality packages to win the tenders.

Ed Passant, chief executive of the Disabled Drivers Motor Club, said the current used car HP scheme was "phenomenally expensive" and must change.

* See also motoring supplement, page 7



Taking it to the streets

Disabled campaigners protested outside the headquarters of the three main political parties in late April.

Members of the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) called for support for disabled people to live independently in the community, rather than in residential homes.

Rezoul Karen (*above*), who lives in a nursing home in Birmingham and needs 24-hour care, said outside Labour's Millbank headquarters: "I want people to listen to what I want, rather than making decisions for me. I want to fight for this. That is why I am here."

As a result of the protests, Liberal Democrat disability spokesman Paul Holmes MP

put down an early day motion calling for measures to promote independent living.

And Conservative Party shadow health minister Liam Fox will meet with DAN later this month.

But a DAN spokesman said he was "disappointed" that Labour Party officials merely asked them to take part in their policy-making review.

The protests were part of three days of campaigning by DAN in London which launched a radical "Freedom Bill" that makes a series of civil rights demands for disabled people.

The disability umbrella organisation Rights Now is considering whether to adopt the bill.

DDA call Unfriendly skies

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) marked its second birthday by calling for major changes to anti-discrimination legislation.

In a review* of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), it calls for a new disability bill to close gaps in the legislation.

It says that it should be easier for people with mental health problems and progressive conditions to take action under the DDA.

And service providers should be able to claim tax breaks to make their premises accessible.

The review says the DDA should be extended to cover public transport and address discrimination in recruitment.

The commission is now conducting a three-month consultation on the review.

Caroline Gooding, special adviser to the DRC, said: "The review is very significant. It is the first time the DRC has looked at the DDA and said how we think it should be changed."

Meanwhile, Lord Asley's bill, also aimed at plugging gaps in the DDA, has reached the House of Commons. Its second reading will take place on 21 June, but it is not expected to become law.

*See advert page 31

Autism on the increase

Two thirds of teachers believe the number of children with autism has increased in the last five years, according to a new report.

The National Autistic Society (NAS) report* for its Autism Awareness Week also found one in 86 children in English and Welsh schools had an autistic spectrum disorder.

It called on central and local government to invest more in meeting their educational needs.

*Autism in schools: crisis or challenge? free from the NAS, tel: 020 79033581

A disabled man in a powered wheelchair missed his flight to the Netherlands because of a string of mistakes by airline staff.

Bob Jamieson, from Essex, arrived at Stansted Airport more than 90 minutes before a Ryanair plane was due to depart, but he was still left stranded.

He had warned Ryanair in writing that he would need assistance, but check-in staff failed to tell ADI, which provides assistance for disabled passengers, that he needed help to board the plane.

They also failed to warn staff at the departure gate.

When he arrived at the departure gate, staff phoned repeatedly for help, but without success.

Eventually, the plane took

off without Mr Jamieson and his personal assistant (PA), and he had to cancel the trip to see a Dutch friend in hospital.

He claimed the incident demonstrated the poor disability awareness of staff working for Ryanair.

He was particularly angry that when he complained about missing his flight, they addressed their questions to his PA.

He added: "I can see it happening again. They are so bad."

Ryanair "sincerely apologised" for the error by their "handling agents" and offered a refund and two free return flights.

A Ryanair spokesman said their staff and agents already receive disability training.

He added: "We can assure Mr Jamieson that this will not happen again."

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The right wavelength

Major broadcasters have pledged to increase the number of disabled people appearing on television and radio.

Members of the Broadcasters' Disability Network (BDN) also promised to improve the portrayal of disabled characters on screen, as well as access to their buildings and services, the accessibility of their websites, and employment and training.

The joint manifesto on the employment and portrayal of disabled people was launched in London last month and has

been backed by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC).

The BDN – which includes the BBC, BSkyB, Carlton, Granada and Channel 4 – and the DRC are also sponsoring 100 disabled people to register with an online database of production staff available for freelance work*.

Only 0.9 per cent of employees and 0.4 per cent of freelancers in the industry are disabled.

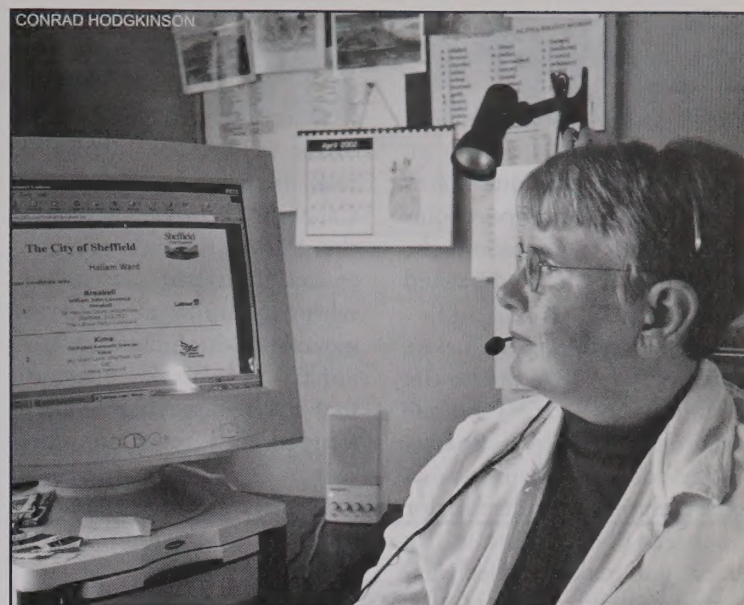
TV presenter Mik Scarlet was optimistic that government

pressure would ensure the promises were kept.

"From what I perceived at that meeting, it will change," he said. "How quickly, we will see."

Maria Eagle, Minister for Disabled People, said: "Getting disabled people in front of the camera and microphone, working behind the scenes and providing the stories, will make a real difference in transforming attitudes to disability in society."

*www.productionbase.co.uk



E-election time: In a world first, Dr Christine Barton, who has no independent movement, used voice recognition software to vote in the 2 May local elections as part of an internet voting pilot in her Sheffield ward.

Teaching a deaf dog new tricks

Staff at an animal rescue centre are teaching sign language to a profoundly deaf dog in an effort to rehouse him.

Buster, a two-year-old Jack Russell terrier cross, has already had four owners.

Lynda Campbell, manager of the Blue Cross animal adoption centre in Kimpton Bottom, Hertfordshire, said: "We have begun teaching Buster to respond to basic sign language commands such as 'sit' and 'stay', and giving him the thumbs up when he's been good, as he needs to start learning some form of communication if he is to be successfully rehomed this time round." *Anyone interested in taking Buster should contact the Blue Cross, tel: 01438 832232.*



Fuel payment plea



Winter fuel payments should be extended to severely disabled people, an influential Commons committee has heard.

Giving evidence about fuel poverty to the Trade and Industry Select Committee in the Commons, Ann Robinson, chair of the gas and electricity consumer watchdog, energy-watch, backed the DN campaign after it was highlighted by committee member Dr Roger Berry.

She told the committee: "They do spend a lot on fuel. Fuel bills hit them hard in the

winter. Their problems are as great as anybody, if not greater."

She later told DN: "I believe winter fuel payments should be extended to severely disabled people because they are not able to move about to a certain extent; some feel the cold more; they are often intensive users of energy. They are the last people we should be exposing to the cold in the winter."

DN is calling for winter fuel payments to be extended to severely disabled people of working age on the middle and higher rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance and the higher rate of the mobility component.

In brief

Scope success

Scope's Cerebral Palsy Helpline has been awarded a Quality Mark by the Legal Services Commission. The awards were set up by the Lord Chancellor's Department in 1999 to define minimum quality standards for providers of information and legal advice.

Staff were praised for helping people to get appropriate services.

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Scots boost

The Scottish Executive has launched a new transport committee set up to advise on the transport needs of disabled people.

Transport Minister Lewis Macdonald launched the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS) in May.

The committee will look at issues relating to transport for disabled people, including access, and make practical suggestions for improvements.

Mr Macdonald said: "MACS will make a real contribution to ensure that our transport policies do not discriminate against disabled people, by giving them an opportunity to air their views on Scotland's transport system directly."

A spokeswoman for Capability Scotland welcomed the committee but was concerned that there was no one with a complex disability or mental health problem on it.

She said: "It is important that it recognises that it has got a broad constituency to represent."

She wanted it to demand a national concessionary travel scheme for Scotland.

From October, local authorities will offer free bus travel to disabled people on a voluntary basis.

A Scottish Executive spokesperson said MACS included a broad range of people with specialist knowledge in disability transport.

Tax credit warning

A new government tax credit that will boost disabled people's income will not help those with learning disabilities, the House of Lords has heard.

Lord Rix, president of the charity Mencap, said the new Working Tax Credit (WTC) would be of no use to most people with learning disabilities.

Few of them could work the minimum 16 hours a week necessary to qualify for the scheme, he said.

Lord Rix was speaking dur-

ing the second reading of the Tax Credit Bill. The WTC is due to be introduced in 2003.

Mencap said the WTC should be more flexible, to help people with learning disabilities into part-time work.

Although a treasury spokeswoman said officials would meet Mencap to discuss the WTC, she said there was little chance of a change in policy.

She said: "We believe 16 hours is the right point to make the division between in work and out of work."



Holy help: the Archbishop of Canterbury, president of JGHA

Three-year wait

A new survey has found that 67 per cent of wheelchair users waited three years to be rehoused in suitable accommodation.

And 41 per cent waited more than five years, according to the survey by John Grooms Housing Association (JGHA). It looked at people taking up JGHA accommodation since January 1999.

Of the 82 clients questioned, 29 per cent cited an inability to use the bathroom alone as the main reason for wanting a new home.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, who

is president of the charity, said: "Simple household tasks like making a cup of tea or taking a shower become impossible tasks for an inadequately housed wheelchair user."

And David Harmer, JGHA chief executive, said: "Too many local authorities are simply not aware of the scale of the problem. We have found that many councils just don't research the housing needs of their disabled constituents, which results in wheelchair users suffering in silence for years."

John Grooms Wheelchair Accessible Housing Survey, free, tel: 020 7452 2000.

Going somewhere nice?

We are looking for ideas for our Out and About features over the summer. Let us know if you're visiting any new and interesting places, fax: 020 7619 7331, email: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

News review

DN rounds up news covered in the mainstream media over the last few weeks

Ms B dies

A quadriplegic woman died after winning a High Court case in which she had asked for the right to have her ventilator switched off.

The Disability Rights Commission backed the court's decision to give Ms B "the same choice as any other person deemed capable of giving their consent".

It added: "We are naturally saddened to hear of Ms B's death and reaffirm that many severely disabled people live rich and fulfilling lives."

Prisoner wins

A prisoner won a High Court battle to refuse treatment for self-inflicted wounds.

The man has said he wants his injuries to become infected and does not want to be treated, so that he can die.

General Medical Council guidelines for doctors on when they should withhold or withdraw treatment from a patient were expected to be approved as DN went to press.

Guidance confusing

Nurses told their annual congress they were confused about when they were allowed to hide medication in patients' food and drink.

The Royal College of Nursing said it would seek clarification from the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), which issued guidance last year.

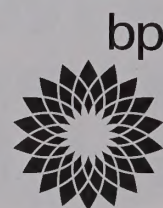
The NMC is to consult further on the document.

Beeb ticked off

The BBC has been rapped by a broadcasting watchdog for failing to stop a comedian swearing and making offensive remarks, including a comment about a singer with a stammer.

Sacha Baron Cohen, as his character Ali G, referred to *Pop Idol* runner-up Gareth Gates as "the spasticated one".

The interview took place during the Radio One breakfast show. The Broadcasting Standards Commission upheld 13 complaints.



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Paralympic cash

Britain's 2004 Paralympic team has received a £1.7m cash injection to boost medal hopes.

Britain's elite athletes managed second place behind host nation Australia at the 2000 Sydney Paralympics.

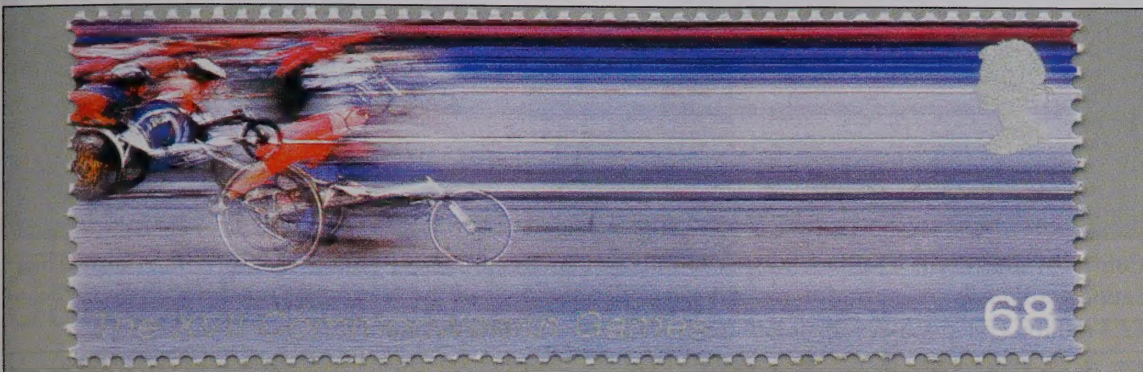
Now, UK Sport will give the British Paralympic Association the cash injection to see if Britain can improve on its 41

gold, 43 silver and 47 bronze medals in 2000.

The money will pay for preparation camps held twice a year to allow athletes to train in climates similar to that of Greece. It will also pay for a new, dedicated Paralympic medical officer and the posts of a new performance director and two performance managers, as

well as a new Sports Science and Medicine Panel to develop knowledge and best practice.

Sir Rodney Walker, chairman of UK Sport, said: "If Britain is to compete in this new professional era and improve upon the position achieved last time around, then we must be prepared to provide the resources to make it happen."



Stamps for champs: Wheelchair athletics is to be featured on a 68p Royal Mail stamp in July to celebrate the inclusion of disabled athletes in Manchester's Commonwealth Games.

Housing victory

Local authorities have a duty to provide homes for disabled asylum seekers who are destitute, the High Court has ruled.

The decision, made in April, means that disabled asylum seekers will be entitled to provision over and above what UK residents are entitled to.

Disabled asylum seekers who can prove that they are destitute would be entitled to residential accommodation, even if their disability alone would not qualify them for accommodation.

The cases were brought by three disabled asylum seekers against two London councils.

The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) has been responsible for housing destitute asylum seekers since 2000, but the Refugee Council (RC) says that NASS accommodation and services do not meet disabled asylum seekers' needs.

Alison Fenney, head of policy at the RC, said: "We have always argued that the needs of asylum seekers, including those with disabilities, should be met in exactly the same way as everyone else."

"Local authorities are best placed to provide specialist and appropriate services to people with disabilities. The issue is that the Home Office is not resourcing local authorities to provide these services."

A spokesman for Enfield, one of the councils, said: "We will be seeking leave to appeal. We do not think Enfield tax payers should foot the bill for this."

The other council, Lambeth, is also considering an appeal.

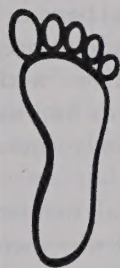
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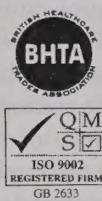
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Strategy for suicide

The government has laid out plans to cut the number of suicide deaths by one-fifth over the next eight years.

A new consultation document* on its *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention in England* includes measures to improve research on suicide prevention, minimise the risk of suicide in hospitals and prisons, promote mental health

and improve the media reporting of suicidal behaviour.

About 5,000 people commit suicide every year. It is the most common cause of death in men under 35.

The consultation period ends on 26 July and the final strategy will be published in September.

*www.doh.gov.uk/mentalhealth/index.htm



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Drugs scare

Epilepsy drugs taken by women during pregnancy can treble the chance of their children being born with disabilities, according to new research.

The report, published in the *Journal of Medical Genetics*, found there was an urgent need to develop safer drugs.

It followed a survey by Epilepsy Action (EA), formerly the British Epilepsy Association, which found that the health of women with epilepsy and their unborn children was at risk because they were not receiving enough information about their drugs (DN, May 2002).

The researchers found one in five children born to mothers taking anti-epilepsy drugs

had withdrawal symptoms.

Congenital disabilities were three times as common among children whose mothers had taken the drugs. More than five times as many children had learning disabilities, compared with those whose mothers had epilepsy but had not taken drugs.

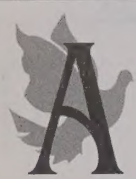
Philip Lee, chief executive of EA, said: "It is essential that women with epilepsy seek preconception counselling before considering pregnancy.

"This is so they can be stabilised on an appropriate anti-epileptic drug to control seizures whilst posing the least risk to the unborn child."

He said GPs should regularly review their treatment.



Centre of attention: The Duchess of Gloucester met fundraisers Sharon McKay (left) and Alison Saunders (middle), who both have epilepsy, when she opened the National Society for Epilepsy's new £2.4 million epilepsy assessment and treatment centre in Buckinghamshire.



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Mastering menopause

Women with learning disabilities have little understanding of the menopause and the importance of trying to keep their bones strong, according to new research*.

The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities (FPLD) says learning disabled women should be better prepared for the menopause.

It is the first such piece of research based on the views of women with learning disabilities, and was carried out by the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent.

Researchers talked to 30 women between the ages of 40 and 70, GPs, staff and parents.

It found that most premenopausal women with learning disabilities had no idea that their periods would eventually stop.

And menopausal women did not understand why their periods had stopped or that it meant they could no longer become pregnant.

Hazel Morgan, head of the FPLD, said: "For most women this is a very significant time of life and almost all the women in

our survey said they wanted to talk about the menopause with other women at this time."

The FPLD says GPs should be more responsive to the needs of such women, and female staff should encourage them to eat a calcium-rich diet to strengthen their bones. There should be good access to health care and accessible information about the menopause.

* *The Menopause and Women with Learning Disabilities* is available free from FPLD at www.learningdisabilities.org.uk or tel: 020 7802 0302

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Stroke study

Researchers are to investigate whether the early use of certain drugs can cut the risk of osteoporosis and fractures in people who have had strokes.

The National Osteoporosis Society (NOS) is funding research to investigate whether bisphosphonates slow bone loss in recovering stroke patients.

Dr Elizabeth Warburton and Dr Kenneth Poole have already reviewed studies which found that people who had a stroke have more brittle bones and are at a higher risk of fractures.

An NOS spokeswoman said: "The NOS welcomes this review which has highlighted this important group of mainly older people who have osteoporosis due to secondary causes."

Eoin Redahan, director of public relations at The Stroke Association, said the charity knew of the connection between osteoporosis and stroke. But he said osteoporosis was just one of several areas of stroke rehabilitation, all of which were "very much underfunded".

See for free

Welsh people with hearing impairments and prior sight problems can now get free eye health checks.

The new tests, launched by the Welsh Assembly, will be available from participating optometrists without the need for people to go to their GP first.

As well as hearing impaired people, those with sight in only one eye, and those with retinitis pigmentosa will be targeted. Some people of Asian or African origins will also get the tests.

Health Minister Jane Hutt, said: "Research shows that certain groups of people are more

likely to develop symptoms of cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes and other eye-related diseases. Other groups of people included in the scheme would find loss of sight particularly difficult, so special care needs to be taken to catch eye disease early.

"This new scheme will contribute greatly to significant health improvements for the people of Wales."

Participating optometrists will display a special logo in their window and 270 have already agreed to take part. The tests differ from standard eye tests for spectacles as they will focus on eye health.



We will be lifted: Emma Shuker, 11, will benefit from a £700,000 Liverpool City Council fund to improve access and install lifts in schools. She met council equalities chief Marilyn Fielding.

Career boost in Liverpool

Disabled people in Liverpool are to be given help to get into work by a project which they could eventually help run.

The scheme has already taken on 56 local disabled people. Ten of these are to be given training in management, team building and finance with the aim that they could eventually run the scheme set up by Liverpool City Council and Breakthrough UK.

The other 46 people will be

given support to find work, including advice on writing CVs, interview skills and support in work.

Lorraine Gradwell, chief executive of Breakthrough UK, said "Breakthrough is different because we practise what we preach. That means we know best how to support disabled people into work because we employ disabled people ourselves, and we are good at what we do."

Closures hit Scotland

The Church of Scotland is to close eight care facilities looking after elderly people.

The church's Board of Social Responsibility said it made the decision to close some of its 85 social care services because of underfunding by local authorities and the government.

It claimed that over the last ten years it had subsidised the

true cost of care by £21 million.

Rev Jim Cowie, convener of the board, said: "Central and local government should be utterly ashamed of their financial failures in this direction."

In 2001, the board's deficit stood at £2.7 million.

The services to close are five residential care homes and three day care centres.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Executive, said: "We are obviously disappointed that the Church of Scotland have decided to close a number of care homes."

The Executive said that from April 2003 it would fully meet the cost of fees for residential care recommended by a national review group.

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The Queen of hearts

As the nation celebrates the Golden Jubilee, John Pring takes a look at the Queen's interest in disability issues

In the 50 years since Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne, she has touched the lives of thousands of disabled people.

Many of the charities for which she acts as patron work in the disability field.

And over the last 50 years, the Queen has visited many of them to meet and talk to disabled people about their lives.

One of her closest connections with disabled people comes through her links with Park House Hotel, a luxury respite facility run by Leonard Cheshire on the Sandringham estate.

After the Christmas service at Sandringham, the Queen and other members of the royal family always stop outside to talk to guests from Park House.

Richard Duggan, who has severe epilepsy and post-traumatic stress from an injury he received serving with the Royal Greenjackets, spoke to the Queen last Christmas.

He remembers waiting outside the church with his wife Elaine. He was wearing a Christmas hat with flashing lights on it.

"As she came down the steps she laughed and said: 'I like your hat.' She gave us such a great big smile. I was so taken

aback because people think she is unapproachable.

"I said: 'Your majesty, I like your hat as well.' The press photographers caught her laughing her head off."

In 1985, the Queen visited the headquarters of the National Society for Epilepsy to open the Sarcus Dean unit, a supportive housing service.

Annette Russell, at the time the charity's senior nurse manager, says: "I remember her gentleness, trying very hard to acknowledge everybody."

Ali Govani, then one of the new residents of the unit, remembers the Queen talking to him in his bedroom.

He had recently arrived from Uganda. "She spoke to me and said how are you and which country do you come from. She was very jolly and she smiled."

The Queen is also patron of the Stroke Association.

In 1999, she visited Nottingham City Hospital's stroke unit to help the charity celebrate its centenary.

Eoin Redahan, who helped organise the royal visit, said the Queen "spent quite a bit of time talking to patients about the issues and the challenges that they faced and the type of care they were receiving."

"They were very impressed with her knowledge of the



We are amused: the Queen meets visitors to the Mobility Roadshow in 1995

issue, but also they felt she was very sympathetic about what had happened to them."

The Queen has been patron of the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) since 1952.

In 1955, she visited its headquarters and in 1968 opened a centenary exhibition.

Four years ago, she attended a celebration of Sir Cameron Mackintosh's 30-year career as a musical theatre impresario, an event that raised more than £100,000 for the RNIB.

Other charities of which the Queen is patron include the Royal Association for Deaf People, the Royal London Society for the Blind, Moorfields Eye Hospital and Cancer Research UK.

She is also a patron of Diabetes UK. Although she has never made an official visit, she is allowing the charity to hold a sponsored walk in the grounds of Sandringham on 19 May as part of its Walk in the Park event.



Hats off to her: the Queen talks to "Tiny" Morrison in 1985, a National Society for Epilepsy resident



Golden moment: the opening of the Royal London Society for the Blind's Dorton College of Further Education in 1989

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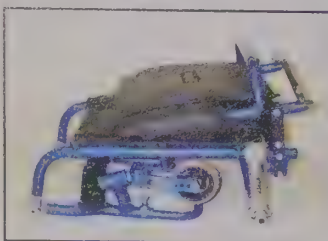
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A platform for wheelchair users will be set up on the north side of The Mall, with a dropping off point at the western end of Pall Mall. Parking should be available nearby. Accessible buses will be operating on their usual routes. There may be some

diversions in central London.

The closest wheelchair-accessible tube station to The Mall is Westminster.

- **Transport for London's access mobility line**, tel: 020 7941 4600, email: access&mobility@tfl.gov.uk
- **Train information**, tel: 08457 484950, text: 0845 605 0600.
- **Weekend highlights:**
1 June, 8pm: Buckingham Palace Gardens, Prom at the Palace.

3 June, 8pm: Buckingham Palace Gardens, Party at the Palace.

3 June, pm: Queen lights beacon in The Mall, fireworks.

4 June, am: Procession from Buckingham Palace to St Paul's Cathedral for service.

4 June, pm: Golden Jubilee Festival in The Mall.

There will be events all over the country. For more details, visit the website at www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk

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When Rose saw red

She petitioned Tony Blair in March to keep her care home open and now Rose Cottle is demanding more money for the care of elderly people. Rod Hermeston meets her

There is something about care homes. Something disconcerting about the flowery smell that hits you when you go in the door.

Maybe it just reminds me of visits to elderly relatives. Visits I no longer have to make. But Borehamwood Care Village is pleasant enough in its suburban street of white houses.

102-year-old resident Rose Cottle became the public face of the crisis in residential care this March, after it emerged that the owners had agreed to sell the home to property developer Bryant Homes.

Bryant wanted to knock it

attention and Bryant Homes backed out of the deal.

Rose says: "I don't think anyone now would ever dare pull this place down. There would be an outcry throughout the nation. The newspapers would make hay with it."

She has taken her new role seriously. She had a visit from Tory Leader Iain Duncan Smith recently.

She is still kicking herself because she feels she did not get her message across properly. "I felt I didn't make the most of the opportunity. I felt I dried up. That's what happens when you are 102."

'I don't think anyone now would ever dare pull this place down. There would be an outcry'

down and build flats. Borehamwood has lost £3 million over ten years and owners, Assured Care Centres, blame government underfunding.

Rose took a petition direct to Tony Blair protesting at the move and calling on the government to invest more in care for elderly people.

There was massive media

But I find her sharp, articulate and ready to laugh at life and herself.

Rose spent 40 "happy" years as a teacher in Islington. She says: "From the age of 11, it was something I wanted to do."

She taught children between nine and 11 years old and was evacuated with a class of children to the



Only one winner: Rose Cottle enjoys life at Borehamwood Care Village

country during World War II.

One of the girls, now in her 70s, has written to Rose after reading about the care home problem and is hoping to visit her former teacher.

Rose never married. She first entered residential care, a home specially for teachers, at the age 84. But it had to be demolished in 1999 because it did not meet standards.

"It was dreadful. Nobody had ever thought that place would close down. It was a lovely home. We couldn't see anything wrong with it."

Rose still pays her own fees

after selling her home to do so.

"It hurts me every month to write a cheque for over £2,000", she says, but adds: "For this little flat, it is not exorbitant."

And she acknowledges that Borehamwood offers a very good service. It supplies both sheltered accommodation and residential care, so someone transferring from the sheltered to the residential service does not even have to leave their flat. It also houses a nursing home, which means that residents who later need that level of care stay on the same site.

Rose uses the residential

accommodation scheme, where meals are provided and help with some things, like getting out of the bath, is given.

To find out that her new home might close created a feeling of "disbelief," she says, so soon after the previous upset.

Bryan Mayson, who chairs the STOP campaign which fought for the home to stay open, says: "To think of knocking it down was absolutely scandalous. We need more places like this."

Mayson's mother, Daphne, 89, also lives in the home.

The petition handed in at Downing Street had over 5,000 signatures. Rose chuckles as she recalls a mass of photographers getting soaked in the rain as they took her picture. The publicity worked.

Bryant Homes have asked to pull out of the deal and the home owners have agreed to it. There was concern that Bryant had not withdrawn the planning application as *DN* went to press, but the owners are adamant they will only sell the home as a going concern.

The National Care Homes Association says 700 homes close a year.

Rose says the government and local authorities need to put in more money: "You can't expect nursing homes to run at a loss. Money has got to be made available and taxes have got to rise if that is the only way of doing it."

"We were led to believe that when the NHS was set up, we were going to be looked after."

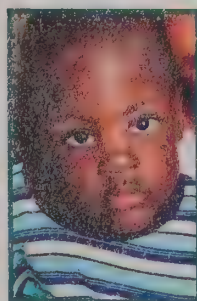
At 102, Rose really should not have had to fight to save her home, but I leave with the feeling that there was only ever going to be one winner.



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Peter needs a family

Peter D.O.B. 28.07.99

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Nursery four times a week, which he enjoys. He enjoys drawing and riding his bike. His foster carers say he is a pleasure to look after.

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Allowances: An adoption allowance is payable on the grounds of his special health needs.

Legal Status: Full Care Order

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Michael needs a family.

Michael D.O.B. 25.10.93

Michael is a happy and active boy who responds well to praise and attention. However, he is anxious and has difficulties expressing his feelings due to emotional neglect. He has started to have some therapy.

He is very talkative and has a good sense of humour. He enjoys playing basketball, tennis and enjoys going to swimming, reading books and arts.

Health: Michael is in good physical health. His father has anxiety and depression and has turrets syndrome.

Parentage: White UK

Family Needed: An adoptive family that will reflect his background and will provide stability and security. Also help him with his emotional needs. Michael is looking forward to being in a permanent family.

Contact: To be reviewed with adoptive family as Michael has two siblings aged 16 and 17 years who have regular direct contact.

Legal Status: Full Care Order

If you are a suitable family who can meet Michael's needs, please contact Rhonda Barrow, Permanent Placement Team, on 020 7974 1306.



Real McCoy: Rory McCann (second from right) "fakes it" for *The Book Group*, while deafblind Graham Hicks (left) is the "genuine" article



Keeping it real

It is hard enough for disabled people to make headway in television and sports. But it's even tougher when non-disabled people muscle in on their turf, says John Pring

When Channel Four revealed in April that a wheelchair-using character would feature in its new sitcom, *The Book Group*, it seemed like good news. There are few enough disabled characters on television, after all.

Unfortunately, although the character, Kenny, is disabled, the actor who plays the part, Rory McCann, is not.

Channel Four says its usual policy is to consider disabled actors for every role and to judge them "entirely on their acting". But in this case, the part was written especially for McCann by Annie Griffin.

There have also been striking recent examples of non-disabled sportsmen taking part in disabled sports.

Branagh to a non-disabled "star", Helena Bonham-Carter.

Last month, Fernandez secured a role as a disabled character in the new series of the hugely popular BBC sitcom *The Office*.

So there has been some progress, but it is extremely slow and she says she felt "gutted" when she heard about *The Book Group*.

"Until disabled people are an equal part of the able-bodied community, specifically in television, I strongly believe that they should give disabled character roles to disabled people."

"When they don't, it's like a slap in the face."

The actors' union Equity was due to discuss this issue at its conference in Glasgow as

He was guided by a friend in a chasing car with a radio link.

There was only one problem. Weaver doesn't have a sight impairment. He simply wore a blindfold, a measure introduced by Guinness World Records (GWR) to "level the playing field" between fully sighted and visually impaired drivers.

GWR insists all its records must be "open to absolutely everyone".

Weaver's name will now replace that of the previous holder, Ken Moss, who really was visually impaired.

Graham "G-Force" Hicks, holder of the quadbike world speed record, was furious when he found out a non visually-impaired driver had broken the record.

Hicks is deafblind, but competes against non-disabled sportsmen for his record attempts.

Hicks says GWR shows a "worrying lack of disability awareness".

Weaver had a clear advantage over visually impaired drivers, he says, because of his sighted driving experience and ability to view the runway before he put on the blindfold.

"Guinness need to decide how their pages will be opened to blind sports men and women on a level playing field," says Hicks.

GWR doesn't believe it is discriminating against disabled people, but says it will now change the name to the blindfold land speed record.

Weaver, meanwhile, says he doesn't want to be thought of

"I don't have a problem with a non-disabled person competing, as long as they are quite open that they are non-disabled."

"I think wheelchair racing is a really fun sport and should be open to everyone."

But she admits that the question of allowing non-disabled competitors to take part is "not black and white".

Maurice Bright, chief executive of British Blind Sport, says it would be "pretty pointless" for non visually impaired people to take part in blind sporting events.

"There are plenty of opportunities for able-bodied sports people and the funding is far greater than anything that might come in our direction", he says.

Someone who has experience of both sport and entertainment is Sarah Marl. A wheelchair user herself, she works in marketing and communications for Disability Sport England (DSE), and has acting and modelling experience.

She finds it "infuriating" when a non-disabled athlete, who has many more opportunities, muscles in on disabled events.

And as for television: "I think there is enough talent out there that could get on screen if people bothered to look, but most of the casting agencies are probably up three flights of stairs."

Until these talented disabled performers in sport and television find themselves on a level playing field, maybe something should be done to keep out their non-disabled rivals.

Tell us what you think. See DN address on page 2

'Until disabled people are an equal part of the able-bodied community, they should give disabled character roles to disabled people'

When people with disabilities still find it hard to break into the mainstream, is it fair for non-disabled people to muscle in on the few roles or events that are open to them?

Julie Fernandez, a disability consultant and producer/actress, was one of the few disabled performers to win a major drama role on television when she played a wheelchair-using character in the BBC soap *Eldorado*.

But most of her other experiences have been intensely frustrating.

Five years ago, she lost out on a role as a wheelchair-using character opposite Kenneth

DN went to press. Its members with disabilities committee wants the conference to persuade companies to audition and employ disabled actors to play disabled characters.

Equity spokesman Martin Brown says: "We certainly do expect companies, if they have a role written as disabled, to look first at performers with disabilities."

There are interesting sporting parallels to *The Book Group* controversy.

When Alistair Weaver broke the blind land speed record in Yorkshire in April, he did so by driving his Audi S8 at speeds of over 140 mph.

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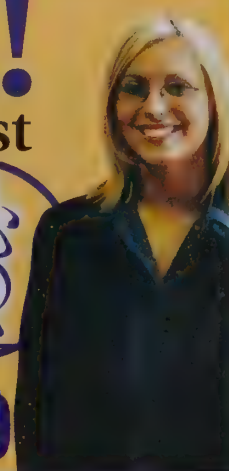


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'My dad is the best dad in the world'

Shaun McCarthy has a very full life – but he's the first to admit he couldn't do it without his wife and children

Robert, 14:

Our dad was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 1986, before we were born.

Growing up, we didn't know that dad had MS or what it was; it wasn't until I was about six or seven that dad had to go into hospital with a relapse.

When he came out, he had problems with his leg and walking. We were told that he had an illness called MS, which meant that the wires going from his brain to his body didn't work properly.

A few years later, dad lost his ability to walk and couldn't work for his company anymore, so we had to move from the house we were living in at the time.

We were quite upset when we had to move, but we found a house a few miles away in the same area and could still go to the same school. The house was quite a mess at first, but we tidied it up and got a stairlift.

Dad was a wheelchair user all the time then, and we had to get hand controls for our car so he could drive.

Emily, 14:

When we go on holidays, things can be quite difficult, but we always stick together to help out dad and have a good time. We have to do things like push him in his wheelchair to help him to get around easier.

Sometimes it is good that we are there to help dad, because without our help, he would be more tired. The weakness and tiredness seems to affect dad quite a lot, but he will not give up. Even if he is really tired, we still go out.

I know that there is no cure for MS, but we are really hoping that there will be one day. Dad has raised a lot of money for MS research and the information unit where he works often organises voluntary events. We have all been involved with some of this fund-raising. It's been fun, and raises money at the same time.

I don't think dad will let MS beat him. He has had quite a lot of relapses, but he seems to deal with them very well and works hard to regain some of his movements.

MS First can be contacted at Bristol General Hospital, Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6SY, e-mail: shaunmccarthy01@aol.com, website: www.digitalbristol.org/members/msfirst



All in the family: the McCarthy family at home in Bristol

Jack, 7:

My dad is the best dad in the world because he still takes us to lots of different places and we have really good holidays. He helps lots of other people with MS. I have been on a radio programme about MS with him and I spoke. Some people that I know heard me.

Dad does work for different charities and, last year, one of them asked if dad and I would be photographed doing different things around the house and going in our car on our way to football. The photos were put into the book with a story: *My Dad's got MS*. It will go to people all over the UK.

I think my dad is special and I love him very much.

Shaun McCarthy (dad)

My eldest son, Michael has also been a great help. He is now 16, working, with a busy social life. But if I needed his help, he would be there.

I was diagnosed with MS at 25, after losing the sight in my left eye and having balance problems. My family helps me in many different ways and sometimes I would not be able to do the things that I do if it weren't for my wife and children. I try not to let my disability affect their lives too much. Sometimes I probably try to do too much – my wife and family have been trying to get me to admit that for years.

As the children have already said, I do voluntary work for

several charities, but mainly work for an organisation called MS First. We raise funds for MS research and provide information for people with MS, their family, carers and friends. I have also been trained to listen to people who have either just been diagnosed, had a recent relapse or are maybe just feeling down.

I get a lot of satisfaction from what I do. Although I sometimes get odd days or even weeks when I feel unable to do the voluntary work, it is always nice to start it again. My wife and I don't force the kids to help: they do it because they want to, and I am so glad I have them.

Even if you cannot do a regular job because of illness or disability, try doing something. Voluntary work may be an option; if not, keep busy with some leisure pursuit.

You can't control something like MS, but you may be able to control how it affects your life.



For a free copy of *My Dad's got MS* by Gary Hetherington and Carolyn Young, contact the MS Trust, Spirella Building, Bridge Road, Letchworth SG6 4ET, tel: 01462 476700, e-mail: info@mstrust.org.uk

Get involved

National Carers Week takes place 10-16 June. Over 2,000 events will happen all over the country. Contact Paul Matz at Carers Week, 20-25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4JT, tel: 020 7566 7608, fax: 7490 8824, e-mail: mail@carersweek.org

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TUV

DN6/02

Dwarf games deliver Give 'em hell Dell



Best shot: Kim Minett (top) throws in the shot competition, while competitors in the men's 100m wait for the starter's gun (above).

More than 100 athletes from Britain, Ireland, France, Denmark and Belgium competed in the ninth National Open Dwarf Games last month.

Three restricted growth athletes with hopes of competing in the next Paralympics in 2004 were among the stars of the event in Birmingham.

The multi-talented Andrew Smith, 18, set a new world swimming record in the 100m butterfly and broke the existing 100m individual medley world record. He won three other golds in the pool and triumphed in the badminton singles and men's javelin.

Jason Irving, 28, won gold in power-lifting and discus, and a silver in javelin, and 24-year-old Kim Minett, the only athlete competing who receives International Paralympic Committee funding, won the shot, discus and javelin.

Other sports included at the games were table-tennis, football and basketball.

The games included junior categories. Kim Minett said: "It gives the youngsters something to aim for. It lets them know they can compete, that they can get somewhere."

The National Dwarf Boccia Championships will take place from 30 August to 1 September in Willenhall, West Midlands.

Anyone of restricted growth who wants to take part in these or other sports can contact the Dwarf Athletic Association of the UK, tel: 0121 4545582 or visit www.daauk.org

Defending champion Kimberly Dell beat her arch-rival Janet McMorran to claim her third singles title at the National Wheelchair Tennis Championships.

Dell won a three-set contest, defending the title she won last year. It was the first time Dell had beaten McMorran in the nationals.

The two rivals then teamed up for the doubles and beat Diana Bowles and Kay Forshaw

in the final in straight sets.

In the men's singles, world number eight Jayant Mistry won his ninth singles title, beating Simon Hatt in straight sets.

Mistry and Shane Everitt-Sharpe took the doubles title, beating David Gardner and Kevin Plowman in three sets.

In the quadriplegic event, US Open champion Peter Norfolk claimed the title, after beating Mark Eccleston, world number one, also in three sets.

Winning ways

Ten Paralympic gold medallists were among the 200 competitors at an athletics meeting in London in April.

Disabled and non-disabled athletes competed in the cerebral palsy grand prix, which incorporated an open athletics meeting and also raised money for Cerebral Palsy Sport (CPS).

Probably the highlight of the event, organised by Ealing Council's Active Ealing department and CPS, was the unofficial world-best of 31.38m, thrown by Paralympics gold medallist Stephen Miller

in the cp2 club throwing

Other impressive performances included a winning throw of 42.10m in the cp7 javelin by Kenny Churchill, another Paralympic gold medallist.

Shirley Redding won the seated discus with 13.22m.

Several athletes achieved qualifying standards for the International Paralympic Committee world championships in France in July.

And some of the disabled sprinters took on non-disabled athletes in open track events.

In brief

Blind gold victory

Susan Loudoun-Reid beat 86-year-old Tom Mitchell to claim the first major event of the English Blind Golf Association season.

Loudoun-Reid, from Wirral, beat the Gloucester golfer, the association's oldest playing member, 4 and 2 in the final of the Matchplay Championship in April.

It was Loudoun-Reid's third Matchplay title, after victories in 1997 and 1998.

Bringing home gold

A dozen-strong team of swimmers from Special Olympics Great Britain returned with a haul of 24 medals from the European Championships in Monaco.

The team, who all have learning disabilities, claimed eight golds, nine silvers and seven bronze medals over the three days, with all 12 winning at least one medal.

Yin Yee Cheng, from Dundee, and Emma Calvert, from Northwich, both won two golds. Allison Bett, from Glenfarg, Richard Perris and Georgina Hulme from Northwich, and Aden Walker, from Warrington, also took golds.

Last month's opening ceremony took place in the presence of Prince Albert and Princess Stephanie of Monaco.

The tournament featured 350 athletes, 120 coaches and 150 volunteers from 32 countries.

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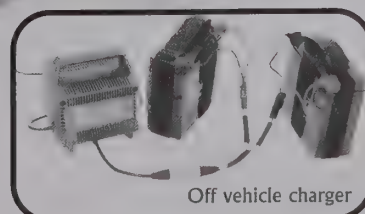
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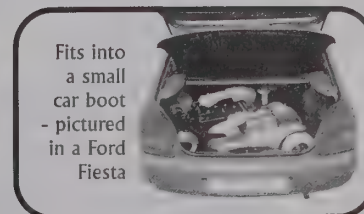
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e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



ILLUSTRATIONS: CLARE CURTIS

Shell's service offends customers

It hardly surprises me that Shell did not comment on its service to disabled drivers (*DN*, April). It is still failing to give any consideration to disabled people or to its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act.

I recently had the misfortune to have a slow puncture and pulled into a Shell garage for air.

I found the new air pressure gauge inadequate because it

relied on my being able to hear the regular pinging it makes to indicate inflation and rapid pings for pressure reached.

The bay provided for parking for air and water makes side parking impossible so when at the rear tyres you cannot see the gauge. And there is no read-out of pressure at the end of the hose connected to the tyre.

200,000 profoundly deaf people in the UK will find this equipment impossible to use and the one in seven of the population who have a hearing impairment will find it, at best, extremely difficult. Garages do not have enough staff to offer assistance.

Denise Canniffe
Centre for Independent Living
Hull

Lifting: it matters to do it and do it well

Your feature on lifting (*DN*, April) explains why we hear from disabled women who are housebound because their personal assistants are not permitted to lift them without a hoist when out and about. This means they cannot make use of away-from-home accessible loos.

One woman reported she can only leave home for about an hour; another said she visits the local university, which has a loo with a hoist, otherwise she has no social life beyond home.

Families with disabled adults or children who need to lie flat for their personal care already have great difficulty in going out. With more elders requiring 24 hour support, lifting guides and quality of life cannot be ignored.
Diana Twitchin
Is There An Accessible Loo?
Middx, tel: 020 8904 8321

I am not surprised that carers sustain back injuries if they assist a client as shown in the picture. It is reminiscent of the

unsafe drag technique where the client is lifted under the armpits and supported by the crook of the carer's elbow. This is dangerous for the carer as the spine is rotated and flexed, and very uncomfortable for the client. It does not promote independence. The carers should be facing in the same direction as the client allowing him to assist with a palm-to-palm hold.
Catherine Hood, MCSP
Drummonds,
Colchester, Essex

Don't underestimate us

Glynn Vernon's article "A change of Scope" (*DN* May) is a good reminder of exactly how far Scope has come in its first 50 years. Thankfully, it would now be incredible to imagine any careers advisor suggesting residential care as the best option for a disabled person. Scope's work in effecting this change in expectation, of both disabled and non-disabled people, should not be underestimated.

That said, employment opportunities for disabled people are still not what they should be. Disabled people don't occupy enough senior roles and it will take more time to overcome this barrier. Schemes such as Scope's Fast Track programme are important in enabling talented disabled people to establish viable careers.

In the meantime, Scope's job of running services and campaigns that benefit thousands remains. Disabled people have been part of the charity's executive council since 1952 and are now a majority there. They steer Scope and set the agenda delivered by staff.

Glynn doesn't say what "hard decisions" he thinks are needed. However, all major decisions, as with the recent Vision consultation with members and service users, will be firmly rooted in what they tell us about their lives and needs. This commitment was demonstrated in 2001 when plans to change fieldwork teams were altered because of the concerns of members and service users.

The Spastics Society was founded by parents and the decision to move away from the paternalistic model was a conscious and right one. The more disabled people get constructively involved, the more effective that transition will prove to be.

Gerald McCarthy
Chairman, Scope

Hidden disabilities don't show

Q: When is a disability not a disability? A: When there are no visible signs.

That is Ewan Marshall's opinion, judging from his observation that disabled performers were "only included in minor roles" in Chicken Shed Theatre's production of *Romeo and Juliet* (*DN*, April).

My autistic son would be indignant and hurt to know that, as a key member of the band, he was regarded as "peripheral". Members with autism, deafness, epilepsy and cystic fibrosis share equally with their able-bodied counterparts in the production.
Maureen Spurgeon, Enfield

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PC pulse

by Dan Batten

Not n-ice

Pop Idol runner-up Gareth Gates, who has a stammer, has once again fallen foul of mindless tabloid journalists. In a *News of the World* feature about his latest video in Venice, Gareth is pictured eating an ice cream. Cue the "hysterical" headline: "Just One C-c-cornetto". NotW, I know you're a downmarket rag, but it's just not on.

Doggone it, not again

After asking Aborigines if they still threw spears earlier this year, gaffmeister extraordinaire Prince Philip has struck gold again. Chatting to a guide dog user, he said: "Do you know they now have eating dogs for the anorexic?" Joke? Oh dear.

PS The Teacher Training Agency's teaching information line *has* a minicom service: 01245 454343. They just told us wrong.



DN on the road

the motoring supplement that puts you in the driving seat

Vintage vroom

Mike Rogers revs up in the stylish Chrysler PT Cruiser



Retro racer: Drivers who thought they could overtake Mike Rogers easily were disappointed.

Looking for a car that's different? Don't miss Chrysler's PT Cruiser, which came onto the Motability scheme just a month ago. This is a retro-styled hatchback – even if hatchback designs didn't exist in the fifties.

The original concept copied the classic American Hot Rod, but was calmed down in the final design. Producing the Cruiser must have been a risky undertaking for Chrysler, but

to nearly £19,000. Motability lists five variants of the petrol version, with advance payments from about £4,500 to £5,000, two of which come with automatic transmission. The diesel models are manual only.

So what is it about the Chrysler PT that will attract disabled drivers? There are several plus points, and only a few minuses.

The pluses include above average headroom that makes it easier to get into and drive

seats folded forward or taken out to reveal carrying space of estate car proportions.

There are a few minus points. The comfortable seats could be more adjustable, mainly on seat angling. I was not alone in finding that, when the seat is set to reach the pedals, the steering wheel was rather close to my chest, despite rake adjustments on the steering column. It's not impossible to get things right, though I was left with a sit-up-and-beg driving style. Mind you, as I get older, I like to sit up to the wheel and other disabled drivers do too.

The instrument panel and passenger glove pocket are picked out in the colour of the car against the more standard light-grey furnishings, in this case "inferno red tinted pearlcoat". Well, why not? This isn't a car aimed to fade into the background.

The dials are deep-set into the panels, making them a little tricky to read in bright sunlight, although white dial backgrounds help. Another unexpected feature is the car aerial, which sticks up out of the nearside wing, retro style. With the PT having electric windows, remote locking, etc, I would have

expected a powered aerial. It would have helped if it had been mounted on the offside wing too.

The PT comes into its own on the road. It's a delight to drive, and "cruiser" is the right name for it, effortlessly eating up the miles with either engine. The 2-litre petrol engine comes from the Chrysler Neon saloon and the turbo diesel is used on Mercedes C-Class saloons.

Either engine ensures comfortable cruising, with cruise control if you want it, and the ride is excellent with stable cornering despite the car's height. Even with a kerb weight of one-and-a-half tonnes, the petrol version gives a combined figure of nearly 34 mpg, 29mpg with automatic transmission. The advanced turbo diesel manual gives a remarkable 41-mpg combined.

The retro look encouraged some drivers to want to pass me at all costs, but, especially when I was in the turbo diesel, they didn't try twice.

So here is a fun but practical car for the disabled motorist. Go and try it yourself. Chrysler tel: 0800 616159

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'The PT comes into its own on the road. It's a delight to drive and cruiser is the right name for it: it effortlessly eats up the miles with either engine'

it worked – in the States they can't be turned out fast enough. And we are beginning to see plenty of them here.

The styling one either likes or loathes. Having tested the Cruiser, I've come down on the like side. It represents a general-purpose, lively and distinctive car, to which changes can be made, especially at the back, according to the needs of a particular day.

It comes with a choice of engine, either a 2-litre, 16-valve petrol or a 2.3 turbo-charged diesel. Prices vary from £15,000

without bending your head. A good-sized boot at the rear can accept at least a couple of upright folded wheelchairs. Flat-floor loading and no rear sill helps with heaving out the week's shopping.

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One year on, Keeble keeps things moving

Transport Minister Sally Keeble explains where the review of its Blue Badge scheme has got to

One of my first duties when I took over as the Minister responsible for mobility last year was to visit the 2001 Mobility Roadshow. I was very impressed with the range and quality of the vehicles and other mobility products on show. I send my best wishes to this year's show.

Naturally, a key area of interest for DN readers is the review of the Blue Badge scheme. We are nearing the

fact that this has been a long process. This is an important scheme and it is vital that we understand every issue and hear opinions from those directly affected by its future.

There is no point in making rushed decisions about issues that will result in changes in law and in practice. We want to be sure that the changes that are introduced as a result of this review are the right ones – not just for now but for the future.

'We want to be sure that the changes that are introduced as a result of this review are the right ones – not just for now but for the future'

end of a very full and thorough process of consultation, which has covered every aspect of the scheme, including eligibility, administration and enforcement.

I make no apology for the

There have been many responses to the consultation from all the key stakeholders in the scheme. Besides disabled people and disability organisations, we have consulted local authorities,

the medical profession and the enforcement authorities.

As you would expect, a high proportion (30 per cent) of the responses came from disability groups – large and small – all over the UK, as well as from disabled individuals (18.5 per cent).

We have asked our statutory advisers on disability, the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC), to work with our consultants to consider every view that has been expressed and to make recommendations to Ministers on the best way forward.

While it is unlikely that there will be total agreement on every issue, I am confident that DPTAC will be able to draw out a consensus on key areas of concern. The government is committed to making the scheme as effective as possible for those who need it.



Yes, minister: Sally Keeble wishes the Mobility Roadshow success

In May we receive DPTAC's recommendations and will be looking very carefully at what needs to be done – whether it's changing laws or changing procedures to produce the best possible scheme for the future.

Finally, and on a related topic, I am also in touch with Baywatch, a coalition of disability organisations in

which DN plays a leading role.

The Baywatch campaign encourages greater protection of disabled parking bays in supermarket car parks from abuse by non-disabled drivers. I had a meeting with representatives from the main partners of the campaign in April and I have offered my full support to this useful initiative.

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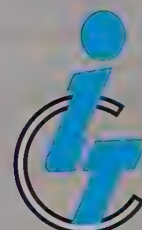
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It's that time of year

June and the Mobility Roadshow go together. *DN's* motoring correspondent, Douglas Campbell, gives you a taste of a show that's not to be missed

For disabled and older people, their carers and families, Mobility Roadshow 2002 is the single most useful event to attend this year.

Changes to layout from the 2000 Mobility Roadshow mean that all parking at Donington Park is now on tarmac and all exhibits are in the paddock area, rather than spread across the site.

Bring the whole family and make a day out of it. Remember to grab a show guide as soon as you arrive so you have a map and don't miss anything you particularly want to see.

Visitors have the opportunity to test drive around 100 vehicles from all the major motor manufacturers on the Grand Prix circuit, fitted with a variety of adaptations. There will also

be around 200 exhibitors offering advice and information on the latest mobility products and services.

Come along to the enormous indoor exhibition area and meet *Disability Now* on stand A13, the Disabled Drivers' Association on stand F3 and the Disabled Drivers' Motor Club on stand C10. Remember to bring your driving licence if you or your carer want to test-drive a vehicle at Test Drive Control, next to stand F12.

Mercedes Benz will be exhibiting for the first time on stand D33. The new Vauxhall Vectra will appear on Vauxhall Mobility's stand, TS1, just days after going on sale in the UK. And Volkswagen, at TS8, will have its new Polo, which was launched in February.



Ride on the wild side: Disabled driver Andrew Scudamore (*above*), 43, will be at the Mega Motors event in his Grinnall Scorpion. The Vauxhall Vectra (*below, left*) will make its debut on the Vauxhall Mobility stand. And Douglas Campbell (*below, right*) will be checking what's new for *DN's* review in August.

Gowrings Mobility is providing a shuttle service for those who need a lift from the car park. Shuttle users and visitors to their stands (33 to 38 and F4) will be able to enter a competition to win a weekend away with the use of a Gowrings Chairman.

New this year is the Mega Motors event on Thursday, 21 June. These are fast cars with a difference – they are all owned and driven by disabled drivers. The line-up is set to include a cross section of seriously fast vehicles. You can see a TVR Griffith 4.3 BV, a classic Jaguar E-type Roadster 1970, a Grinnall Scorpion, a Porsche 911 (966) Targa 2002, a spaced-framed Nissan Micra Hot Rod racing car, a BMW 330Ci Sport, a Porsche Boxster Triptronic, a Fiat 131 Super Mirafiori, an Alfa Romeo GTV6 3 litre classic coupe and a RUF Porsche 993 BTR, which boasts a top speed of 202 mph.

It is not all cars. There will be wheelchair and conversion firms, not to mention many information services, government departments and even ASDA.



competitions for the fastest lap of each day on the Toyota Formula One computer simulator.

There are clowns and face painters, a crèche for the little ones, a wheelchair-accessible Fun Bus and Ford's radio-controlled rally cars to keep younger visitors entertained.

There is plenty of cover from the sun (or rain) in the exhibition halls, where many of the stands are located. Bring your own picnic, or use the wide choice of catering outlets.

'For disabled and older people, their carers and families, the Roadshow is the single most useful event to attend this year'

For visitors looking to upgrade their wheelchair or scooter, there is an indoor test track where you can "try before you buy".

There will be skid cars and go-carts, courtesy of Ford, and 4x4 driving sponsored by Nissan. There will also be

You will also find plenty of temporary accessible toilets, including some brand-new ones designed to the latest standards for the Roadshow.

Whatever you do, do not miss the Mobility Roadshow. If you do, it is twelve whole months until the next one.



- This year's Mobility Roadshow is at Donington Park, between Derby and Nottingham. Thursday 20 June to Saturday 22 June. 10.00am to 6.00pm each day.
- From the M1 motorway, use junction 23A from the south or junction 24 from the north. From the north-west, follow the A50 to the M1. From Birmingham and the south-west, follow the M42/A42. Then follow the signs to Donington Park.
- A free, accessible shuttle bus service will operate every day from Derby railway station. East Midlands airport is a seven minute taxi ride away.
- Parking and admission are free and you do not need a ticket. Wheelchair loans can be pre-arranged by telephoning Keep Able on 01384 48 45 44.
- Full Roadshow details, tel: 0870 770 3222, website: www.justmobility.co.uk/roadshow

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Rock solid: Ford chairman Roger Putnam and MAGIC general manager Julie Mooney celebrate the service's 200,000th customer.

MAGIC milestone

An information service for disabled and older drivers is celebrating after passing a major milestone.

Ford's MAGIC (Mobility and General Information Centre) service has now helped 200,000 people.

MAGIC provides free motoring and mobility information to people in the UK,

including help on subjects such as the Motability scheme, disability benefits, and mobility assessment and vehicle adaptation centres.

Call MAGIC free on 0800 240241 or minicom 0800 169 3049 between 8am and 8pm, Monday to Friday, and from 9am to 4pm on Saturdays, or email: help@fordmagic.co.uk

Doug's fuel fury

A leading disabled motoring campaigner refused to pay for his petrol at two filling stations, after he claimed staff had discriminated against him.

Douglas Campbell (right), chief executive of the Disabled Drivers' Association,



needs help to fill up his car.

But during a business trip last month, staff at two motorway service areas failed to respond for at least ten minutes to his requests for help.

Both stations have installed service call systems, which

allow disabled drivers to alert staff that they need assistance.

The first incident was at the M1 motorway's Leicester Forest Welcome Break services; the second was at Moto services at Donington Park, also on the M1.

On both occasions, Campbell told staff to subtract the cost of the petrol from the compensation he claimed he could win if he took a case against them under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). He then drove off without paying.

Campbell said: "They are making it very difficult for me to do part of the

job I am paid to do."

The Disability Rights Commission said he had a potential claim under the DDA.

Both companies have written off the cost of the petrol, but said they could not guarantee doing so again.

A Welcome Break spokesman said he did not condone Campbell's actions, but he was "absolutely right to be upset with the service he received".

A Moto spokesman apologised for the delay and said staff had been busy.

But he said Moto had invested "a considerable amount" installing the service call system and training staff at its 47 sites.

Charity reaps benefits of Xmas appeal

Motability's Christmas appeal raised £65,000 for the charity's grants programme.

The mailing costs of the appeal were covered by Ford MAGIC, which also paid for prizes, including a first prize of £10,000.

Donations were two-thirds higher than the Christmas 2000 appeal.



Variety Club, the greatest children's charity in the world, welcomes applications to its Easy Riders Scheme, for assistance with funding for mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, buggies and trikes, on behalf of children with special needs under 19 years of age, from a financially disadvantaged background.

To apply please contact the Wheelchair Co-ordinator at: **Variety Club**, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG. Telephone 020 7428 8100. Fax 020 7428 8111. E-mail: wheelchairs@varietyclub.org.uk

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Star car: (left to right) Gary Newton, managing director of Gowrings Mobility, Linda Ling, the company's sales and marketing director, and Dave Counsell, fleet manager, joined with Terry Froud, group managing director of Renault, Newbury, to celebrate Gowrings' 1,000th Renault Kangoo conversion.

Stroke test could be 'big step'

Researchers are evaluating a test that could make it easier for people recovering from strokes to start driving again.

The government has commissioned the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) to assess the reliability of the test.

The Stroke Drivers' Screening Assessment (SDSA) was developed by Nottingham University's stroke rehabilitation unit and aims to predict if someone can safely resume driving.

There is currently no standard method of assessment to help GPs decide whether a patient is fit to drive.

Researchers from TRL will investigate the use of the SDSA across the UK and find out how well it identifies those who will pass and fail an on-road test.

Eoin Redahan, public relations manager for the Stroke Association, said: "Driving again after suffering a stroke is important for some people. It can be a big step in helping them on the road to recovery.

"Not only does it give them back their confidence but it boosts their self-esteem. If the SDSA works and it unifies the whole process, this can only be a good thing.

"It will also give patients a clear idea of what is expected of them, if they are to be fit enough to drive again."

The Stroke Association's leaflet on driving and stroke is available free, tel: 0845 303 3100.

People who assess drivers using the SDSA method can contact researcher Sam Keating, tel: 01344 770665, email: skeating@trl.co.uk

Centre marks 21 years

One of the country's first mobility centres is celebrating its 21st birthday.

The Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Mobility Centre (QEFMC) in Carshalton, Surrey, has assessed over 17,000 people since it opened in 1981.

When it was launched, the government said it believed there would only be about 50

disabled people in the country interested in learning how to drive and become independently mobile.

Sascha von Lieven-Knapp, director of the centre, said: "Attitudes have changed, society has changed and technology has changed and we are now assessing over 1,000 clients a year."

QEFMC is holding a party on 4 July to thank all those who have helped and benefited from its work.

Among the guests will be representatives of Ford, which has sponsored the mobility centre for the last 20 years. There will be an assault course, and some former clients will display their cars.



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If you have a low credit rating, Motability is your main chance of buying a car. And if you're on a low income, second-hand is your best bet. So why does Motability make used cars so expensive, asks Ed Passant

It's a pretty good feeling getting a brand new car, but, for most of us, it's a tricky decision. Does it make sense to shell out on enormous depreciation over the first few years? Wouldn't a well looked after second-hand vehicle be better?

Cars are much more reliable these days. You're not necessarily purchasing a load of heartache with a used vehicle.

Everyone knows there are pros and cons with car purchase. Sifting through what you really need is pretty complex – not to mention the images of freedom that are thrust upon us in TV and



exercise the same sort of choices and risks that are available to other motorists? Doesn't Motability offer the option of hire purchase (HP) on second-hand vehicles? The answer is yes – but at staggeringly high prices.

An investigation by the Disabled Drivers' Motor Club

using this Motability product.

OK then, accept that Motability is the biz on contract hire but use other finance if you want to purchase.

Here's the rub – Motability has a unique and privileged position in the market. They can get your mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement paid directly to them by the Benefits Agency. MFL, who administer the scheme on Motability's behalf, don't have to worry about your credit rating – the money's guaranteed to hit their bank. If you are on a low income and cannot get credit, Motability is the only deal in town.

Admittedly, HP is only a tiny part of Motability's work and internal surveys show a phenomenally high level of user satisfaction.

On contract hire, Motability is in a position to offer an incredibly good deal, roughly a third cheaper than other commercial options, so it isn't surprising that satisfaction ratings are so high.

But surely it's time for Motability and MFL to offer good-value products across a whole range of options? New



cars may be the most reliable and the contract hire scheme may meet the needs of the majority of disabled people, but it smacks of patronisation to restrict other options.

We know there is a clear link between disability and poverty and that, often, people's mobility component is spent on absolute basics. Personal mobility is still critically important, though, and in spite of improvements in the accessibility of public transport, private vehicle ownership is

wonderfully liberating.

It seems stupid that, at the end of their lease, good Motability vehicles are stripped of adaptations such as hand controls (at the user's expense) before being sold back to the trade. Surely part of this fleet would be ideal to be offered to disabled people who want to risk second-hand? If firms like Yes Car Credit can do it, why not Motability?

Ed Passant is chief executive of the Disabled Drivers' Motor Club.

'The first rule is that you don't run a brand new car if you're hard up. Strange, then, that the bulk of the Motability scheme is designed to channel you in precisely this direction'

newspaper adverts. Those ads are seductive, but pause for a moment. Do you normally get to work via the tyre-squealing hairpins of the Alps? Have you ever parked on a large rock jutting into the sea from which there is no apparent escape – or does the local disabled parking feel like that anyway?

If, for you, there are also issues such as access or adaptations, your checklist may be pretty lengthy and feel entirely individual. In addition, you quickly get used to the fact that the model you really want does not come in automatic, for no apparent reason other than the ignorance and stupidity of the motor industry.

Yet in this maze there are some basic rules that most people apply. The first and most obvious is that you don't run a brand new car if you're hard up.

Strange, then, that the bulk of the Motability scheme is designed to channel you in precisely this direction. You exchange your higher rate mobility component (and possibly a considerable initial payment) for a vista of hassle-free motoring in a gleaming contract hire vehicle that is yours for the next three years of high depreciation. Everything is taken care of; you only need to find the money for fuel and cope with the odd argument over "fair wear and tear" and insurance excesses.

But what if you want to

magazine *Disabled Motorist* in February revealed alarming interest rates of between 24 per cent APR and 32 per cent APR on a two-year-old vehicle, and between 19 per cent APR and 25 per cent APR on a three-year-old model. In short, you'd be better off buying a car using your standard credit card than



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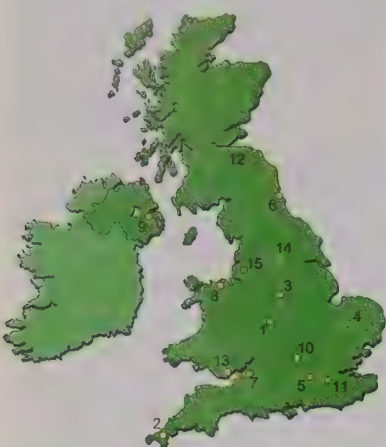
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The Forum's your first stop

Mobility centres are a great source of motoring help, says Dan Batten

Want to get on the road but need a bit of a kick-start? Then contact the Forum of Mobility Centres. There are 15 centres around the country that offer disabled and older people advice, assessments and test drives. To find out more, tel: 01344 661000, website: www.justmobility.co.uk/forum or take a look at the table.



1. **Regional Driving Assessment Centre**, West Heath Hospital, Rednal Road, Birmingham B38 8HR, tel: 0121 627 8228, fax: 0121 627 8629.



2. **Cornwall Mobility Centre**, Tehidy House, Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3LJ, tel: 01872 254920, fax: 01872 254921.



3. **Derby Regional Mobility Centre**, Kingsway Hospital, Kingsway, Derby DE22 3LZ, tel: 01332 371929, fax: 01332 382377.



4. **Kilverstone Mobility Assessment Centre**, 2 Napier Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3RL, tel: 01842 753029, fax: 01842 755950.



5. **Mobility Advice and Vehicle Information Service (MAVIS)**,

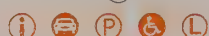
"O" Wing, Macadam Avenue, Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6XD, tel: 01344 661000, fax: 01344 661066.



6. **Mobility Centre**, Regional Neurological Rehabilitation Centre, Hunters Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NR, tel: 0191 219 5694, fax: 0191 219 5665.



7. **Mobility Service of the Disabled Living Centre (West of England)**, The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2QQ, tel: 0117 965 9353, fax: 0117 965 3652, email: mobserv@dlcbristol.org



8. **North Wales Disabled Drivers Assessment Centre**, The North Wales Resources Centre, Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire

LL18 5UJ, tel: 01745 584858, fax: 01745 582762, email: info@drivemobility.org



9. **Northern Ireland Mobility Centre**, Disability Action, Portside Business Park, 189 Airport Road, Belfast BT3 9ED, tel: 028 9029 7880, minicom: 028 9029 7882.



10. **Oxford Driving Assessment Service**, Mary Marlborough Centre, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD, tel: 01865 227600, fax: 01865 227294.



11. **Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Mobility Centre**, Damson Way, Fountain Drive, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4NR, tel: 020 8770 1151, fax: 020 8770 1211.



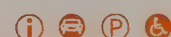
12. **Scottish Driving Assessment Service**, Astley Ainslie Hospital, 133 Grange Loan, Edinburgh EH9 2HL, tel: 0131 537 9192, fax: 0131 537 9193.



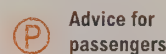
13. **South Wales Disabled Drivers Assessment Centre**, Rookwood Hospital, Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2YN, tel: 029 2055 5130, fax: 029 2055 5130.



14. **William Merritt Disabled Living Centre and Mobility Service**, St. Mary's Hospital, Green Hill Road, Armley, Leeds LS12 3QE, tel: 0113 305 5288, fax: 0113 231 9291.



15. **Wrightington Mobility Centre**, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs WN6 9EP, tel: 01257 256409.



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Motability struggles

In the past year, an alarming rise in problems and general confusion has hit the Motability scheme.

Douglas Campbell investigates

The last twelve months have not been the easiest for the Motability scheme. It is clear to those of us that handle queries and complaints from users of the scheme that there has been a big increase in problems and confusion.

There are actually two organisations using the Motability name. One is the charity Motability, based in Harlow. The other is the finance company, Motability Finance Limited (MFL) based in central London and with an operations centre in Bristol.

Motability handles marketing of the various schemes and processing applications, including grants from the various government and charitable funds that it manages. There have been few changes here and this is reflected in the quiet, efficient way they handle most tasks.

Some reorganisation took place a couple of months ago, when the operations director left, his role merged into a new, larger department. Hopefully, these changes will have no

adverse effect on service.

On the grants side, there seem to have been many fewer complaints. An improvement in funding has helped here, but there is still not enough money to meet the needs of all applicants for the most expensive vehicles and adaptations.

By contrast, MFL has seen a massive change to the way it works this year. At times this has had a detrimental impact on customer service standards. Reports of long waits for the phone to be answered, correspondence not dealt with and incorrect advice from car dealers have been too frequent.

The MFL problems seem to stem from the changes in the way the main scheme operates. From the end of February, MFL took over responsibility for selling all the used cars at the end of their hire period. This meant that they had to set up completely new systems to have each car inspected and MOT tested and then sold.

They need to process around 600 cars every working day. If they do this well, they will

control the cost of the scheme and the prices charged to users. Most of it seems to have gone well, but the teething problems have left many users confused, upset and angry.

The RAC centre that handles the MOT test and vehicle inspection bookings could not cope with the volume of calls initially. Six months later, it seems to be running more smoothly and the managers are determined to meet the needs of disabled people.

Another problem has been what many users see as nit-picking by MFL and dealers over the condition of cars at the end of the contract. In the past, some dealers accepted cars with damage as part of the deal they had with a customer who was obtaining a replacement from them. But the substantial fall in the price of used cars

reduced the dealer's profit from re-sale. And when MFL took over responsibility for reselling, this removed the former flexibility.

MFL had little choice three years ago other than to introduce the changes. If they had not done so, many dealers and some manufacturers could have withdrawn from the scheme because of the risk of losing money on the used cars. It would certainly have been impossible for the scheme to offer such good value for money and meet the growing number of disabled users.

These changes have resulted in a big growth in the number of staff and contractors needed to run the scheme and the acquisition of new skills and processes. On the whole, MFL has done well, but there are areas where planning was not adequate and implementation

was not satisfactory

Motability and MFL must learn from this period. They need to improve their lines of communication with disabled people and their organisations, consult more openly and fully, and explain their plans sooner.

They also need to recognise that many users of the scheme find the process complicated and confusing and try to make it easier and friendlier for them.

Perhaps they could also send their computer to charm school so it sends out less threatening, more helpful letters.

I know they have staff that are totally committed to delivering a service that meets the mobility needs of disabled people, but it just does not always work out too well.

Douglas Campbell OBE is executive director of The Disabled Drivers' Association.



Free wheeling: former paratrooper Ken McIlwee, 42, took delivery of a Toyota Yaris Verso under the Motability scheme. He found Motability helpful, he says, and likes the Yaris Verso for its roominess.

How it all works

Motability's **contract hire scheme** for cars offers many disabled people the best value available.

- Anyone in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance, with more than three years to run, can commit that benefit to hiring a car – usually all the allowance.
- For larger cars an additional advance payment is required.
- The scheme pays for the car, insurance, recovery and breakdown services from the RAC and routine maintenance.
- Driving is limited to two named drivers, but a third can be added at extra cost.
- The contract runs for three years, then the car goes back and a new contract starts.
- There is no extra charge for young or inexperienced drivers, but there are some

insurance restrictions for young drivers and those with a history of insurance claims.

- An extra charge is made for exceeding 12,000 miles a year.
- The only extra costs are petrol and a contribution, usually £75, to the cost of each insurance claim.
- The scheme is open to disabled drivers and disabled people who prefer to be driven.
- Motability can offer grants towards the cost of advance rental and conversions.

Motability also runs a **hire purchase scheme** for new and used cars and for motorised wheelchairs and scooters. It is available to disabled people regardless of their credit history. For details of the Motability scheme, tel: 01279 635666 or go to www.motability.co.uk

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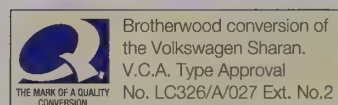
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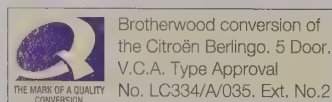
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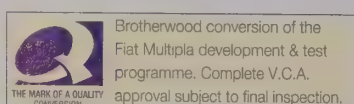
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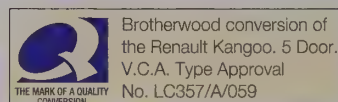
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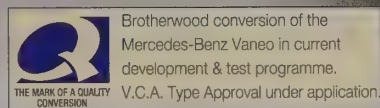
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Future shocks

It is not just technology that is advancing, so is the design of cars. Together, the two could make a real difference to disabled drivers if everyone works together. Paul Gambrell explains.

The Chinese have a proverb which states that you are unfortunate to live in interesting times. Although the world of car design is certainly interesting at this time, I hope to prove the proverb wrong and show that the design of necessary adaptations will be beneficial.

It may seem strange to start by talking about car design. But the car itself is going through a period of revolution in design which I believe will have a major impact on what we might see in the future.

It is impossible to deal with everything in so short a space, but I will try to cover two aspects: car controls (such as steering, braking and accelerator) and access to the vehicle.

Control systems

Like aeroplanes today, within

the next ten years car controls will all be drive-by-wire. This means that the conventional mechanical link from the control to the system – for example, a steering column – will be replaced by an electrical connection where the control drives the system through some form of electric device.

This has largely already happened with the accelerator control on new cars. A potentiometer on the pedal is connected to the fuel regulator by a wire and operates an electric motor to control it. Car manufacturers will be doing the same to our braking and steering systems.

So what advantages does this give us? Rather than having to put on an adaptation to work conventional controls, we will be able to use the systems already installed on the vehicle



Take control: The development of infrared control panels, such as this one from Brian Page (above), helped revolutionise vehicle adaptation for disabled drivers. Below: Paul Gambrell.

and merely replace the human interface.

As an extreme example, the traditional control systems of steering wheel, brake and accelerator pedals could be substituted for a joystick by unplugging one interface and replacing it with the other.

The Italian adaptation manufacturer Guido Simplex is already offering an accelerator that plugs into a car this way, and one or two other manufacturers are working on similar controls.

Access to and from a vehicle

The car manufacturers are beginning to note that not everyone finds it easy to get in and out of a car. In particular, they are aware that we are getting older as a society and that the proportion of customers who, to put it politely, are no longer spring chickens, will grow markedly over the next few years. So it's no surprise to

with a rotating seat (also seen on some concepts) and you have an easily accessible vehicle.

There are also advances in the structure of the car. For many years, we have had the conventional "monocoque" car where the vast majority of the panels in the body are used as part of the vehicle structure. This is a strong, light and efficient way of designing and manufacturing car bodies. It doesn't, however, lend itself to easy adaptation for other purposes.

For instance, Jubilee Automotive Group had a really difficult job converting the Suzuki WagonR into the "Life", a vehicle that can be driven from a wheelchair.

The latest thinking is to use a space frame construction, where loads are fed through the frame and the external panels make it look nice and keep the rain off the occupants. This type of construction makes it much easier to convert a vehicle



elements in providing a mobility solution.

As we move into the future, it is only by good working relationships that the possibilities described above will be realized. To provide safe and reliable adaptations, it is vital that the companies producing adaptations receive information from the vehicle supplier.

Motability is taking a lead role in this in a number of ways. In particular, we have spent a lot of time talking with adaptation companies and the motor manufacturers to make them aware of these issues and the strengths and limitations of each other.

We have run seminars and awareness events to reinforce these messages and have promoted professionalism through the Motability Adaptation & Conversion Supplier Accreditation scheme.

I am encouraged by the progress we have made and the interest now being shown in these issues by a number of major manufacturers.

I started with the proverb about being unfortunate to live in interesting times. I hope that I have painted enough of a picture for you to see why I, for one, am glad to live in a fascinating period for the car. I think that, for adaptations, the best is yet to come. *Paul Gambrell is technical director at Motability.*

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find them showing concept cars where ease of access is a priority.

One particular trend that several concept vehicles have followed is to have a conventional front door with a rear door that opens back-to-front, rather like old Rovers used to do. It just goes to show that there are no new ideas!

What makes these designs interesting is the absence of a door pillar between the two doors, so that with both doors open, there is a large opening. Throw in a high roof line (another design trend) together

for other purposes and makes relatively small volumes of production economical. It is already used on such vehicles as the Fiat Multipla.

What's needed to make it all work?

In order for all of this to become a reality, there will need to be a change in the relationship between the adaptation companies and the car manufacturers.

There has historically been limited help and co-operation between these two crucial

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Taking the right turn

The decision to buy a car is never easy, but for disabled people, getting the right model and adaptations is vital. Rod Hermeston spoke to six disabled drivers about their choice of car



Joanna Owen, 40, a case worker at the Disability Rights Commission and qualified lawyer, has a spinal cord injury and is tetraplegic.

The first two vehicles she had after her accident were Honda Accords. But she could not transfer herself from a wheelchair to the car seat.

The first vehicle which really "worked" for her

was a Ford Transit adapted by Steering Developments. It had a lift at the side and an automatic remote-control sliding door. She drove this from her wheelchair.

"It was the first one I could drive completely independently. It was completely liberating for me to go out when I wanted to, where I wanted to, whether it was to see friends or go shopping. Up until then I had been entirely dependent on other people being around to help me go out, because I needed them to help me get into the car and pack my wheelchair into the back of the car."

She now has a Chrysler Voyager adapted by Alfred Bekker which she also drives from her wheelchair. It has a lowered floor and ramp which allows wheelchair access.



Gary Sluggett, 18, of Cornwall passed his driving test in April, after four attempts, in his Volkswagen Polo. He got the Polo last year through the Motability scheme.

Gary, who lives in Kilkhampton in Cornwall, has encephalitis and a weak right arm and leg. He says: "It made quite a lot of difference. I had

problems getting about before. I can only walk for a couple of minutes at a time, and I used to have to ask my mum to drive everywhere.

"Public transport is pretty awful. There aren't many buses and they never turn up."

Gary drives an automatic with a left foot accelerator and a hand control which

allows him to work the indicators and lights. The car and adaptation was recommended by Cornwall Mobility Centre in Plymouth.

Gary says: "Most of my mates live about five miles away. I can drive to see them, go to the local cinema and go to my local football team's away games."

INFORMATION

Adaptacar, tel: 01769 572785

Alfred Bekker, tel: 01377 241700

Brotherwood, tel: 01935 872603

David Relph, tel: 01362 695562


Steering Developments, tel: 01442 212918

Cornwall Mobility Centre, tel: 01872 254920

Derby Regional Mobility Centre, tel: 01332 371929

Queen Elizabeth Foundation Mobility Centre, They can also let you know where your nearest mobility centre is based, tel: 020 87701151.

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Juliet Palmer, 32, and her husband are driving their first adapted vehicle for their eight-year-old daughter Zoe.

The vehicle, supplied by the Motability scheme, is a Vauxhall Zafira.

Zoe has spinal muscular

atrophy and has to use an electric wheelchair.

At first, the Palmer's had a Vauxhall Vectra, which was adequate for Zoe.

"Because she was so small we did not have the vehicle adapted," says her mother.

But in September 2001 they got the Zafira, which has an electric Milford Person Lift to get Zoe into the passenger seat and a hoist to lift the wheelchair into the back made by Brig-aid Controls. This was fitted by adaptation company David Relph.

Previously Zoe could only travel if her father was there to lift her into the car.

Mrs Palmer says: "It has made my life a lot easier. I can go and put her in the car and it takes the chair as well. It also gives her independence having the wheelchair with her."

Michael Hearn, 23, is a wheelchair user.

He is on his third car and has used the same type of equipment in each one.

He now drives an automatic Zafira with push-pull hand controls for accelerating and braking. This also has a switch for the indicator lights and dip switch. The adaptations were made by Adaptacar in South Molton.

Michael got his first car after an assessment by the Cornwall Mobility Centre when he was ready to start learning to drive at age 17.

"They had a vehicle down there that was fitted with most of the controls that can be fitted. They make sure you've got the things that you need and don't go spending stupid money on things that you don't need."



Mary McElligott, 47, of Sleaford, drove for about 25 years before a stroke in 2000 left her unable to use her left leg to work the foot pedals in her car.

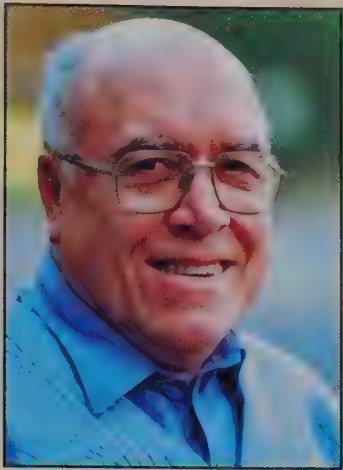
Mary had assessments at the Derby Regional Mobility Centre, the first of which led to her buying a Honda Civic with automatic gears so that she did not need to operate the clutch. The accelerator is adapted so that she can operate it more easily.

A further assessment in September found Mary had problems reading road signs and coping with other traffic, so the DVLA decided she had to take her driving test again. She needed lessons and a driving test which were also provided by the mobility centre in order to get her licence back.

And when her husband, who was unemployed, found work, it became vital that Mary was able to drive, as they have two young children.

She says: "The fact that I wasn't able to drive was horrendous for us once he was at work. Of all the problems I had after my stroke, that was the most stressful."

She says getting behind the wheel "has made big a difference in our lives".



Ted Gates, 67, still has the same people carrier that "worked" for him.

Ted has Gillain-Barré Syndrome. He is a powered wheelchair user, with total paralysis in the bottom part of his legs and weak arms.

He tried an Astra Estate with a hoist in the back in 1988 after first becoming disabled. But he changed to a Nissan Prairie converted by Brotherhood a couple of years later.

This followed an assessment by the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Mobility Centre (QEFMC).

The roof was raised by Brotherhood and the floor lowered, while a hand controlled ramp allows him to drive into the vehicle from the back.

He had the accelerator pedal lowered to allow him to swing his foot between pedals.

"Although I am able to use other forms of transport local-

ly for my voluntary work, I would not be able to go any distance without the vehicle. It opens up lots of avenues."

He had got the Astra without taking advice, and it was only when he used the QEFMC that the adapted Prairie was identified as the right car.

"I would strongly recommend that people go to one of the mobility centres for a proper assessment," he says. *Mobility Centres, see page 8*

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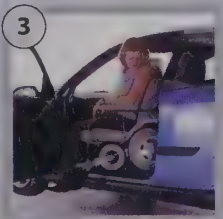
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There's been no stopping Pam Bishop and her husband since they bought themselves a motor caravan

Motorhome from home

Eleven years ago, my husband Bob and I took early retirement. After decades of work as a long-distance lorry driver for Bob and as a civil servant for me, we decided it was time to make the most of our new-found leisure time and invested in an adapted Ford Transit Travelhome.

Now we have several foreign holidays under our belt and feel we have learned a thing or two about touring on the Continent.

The first thing we do is buy campsite books for the country we are travelling to. These tend to have very clear directions and symbols for what is available on each site, so they are a good investment. It's then my job, as navigator, to work out a quiet route to a suitable site. Motorways are out – I would have to hand over the toll money and I dread the thought of dropping the lot. It's fairly easy to avoid large cities, although we did once find ourselves caught up in rush-hour Seville. I'm sure it wasn't the navigator's fault.

We love going to France and thoroughly recommend its *Aire de Service* sites. These are for



Winter warmth: Pam and Bob soak up the sun on their walk from the campsite to Albufeira, in Spain

motor caravans only and are usually in the middle of villages or towns, making it very easy to park centrally. They cost a couple of pounds a night and have provision for chemical disposal and filling water tanks. They make a great stop if you want to be in the thick of French life, visiting colourful local markets and so on.

It's a good idea to take a power wheelchair to get over cobbled streets, although we have found that few pavements

have lowered kerbs in France. We also take a manual chair, which can be carried on a cycle rack on the back of the van and often comes in handy.

Driving through France and crossing into Spain, we have found huge differences in the two countries' sites. We have stayed on two Spanish seaside campsites, one in Benidorm, and found them rather cramped. Other campers were very friendly and the sites did have great facilities for disabled

people, but there was no privacy and these two country bums beat a hasty retreat – we definitely like our own space.

A couple of years ago we decided to spend Christmas and New Year in our van, doing a ferry crossing from Portsmouth to Bilbao in Spain for Christmas and then driving down to the Algarve for the New Year. We reserved an accessible cabin (one of only four – make sure you book well in advance as they get snapped up). Using a power chair on board is fairly easy as you are first on to give you time to unload it and you are always the last off.

Our first site in northern Spain was just to be a one-night stay to recharge the chair batteries. But a surprise blizzard kept us there for two

nights. The storm was quickly over, but it left us with some gorgeous snowy mountain scenes – perfect for December.

We then took a leisurely seven days to meander down to Fuseta, a small fishing village on the Algarve, where the other campers and the locals were really friendly.

We ended up having a Christmas barbecue in wonderful sunshine with four British couples and about 20 Dutch people before retiring for the evening to a fishermen's bar. Fireworks and crackers brought the New Year in with a bang.

We had pre-booked a place on a Camping and Caravanning Club rally near Albufeira in early January. The site was a complete contrast to the ones we had been on earlier, with swimming pools, restaurants and bars, and plenty of space between campers. Albufeira is walkable from the site, but the road is very busy and has no real pavement. We visited the same site in April and found it almost deserted – sites can be so different depending on the season, and you also need to check they are going to be open if you're travelling out of the usual holiday months.

This year we're planning a few smaller trips round Britain, but I'm sure it won't be long before we get our motorhome back on foreign soil again.

The Disabled Drivers' Association offers members concessions on ferry prices and has a route planner service on its website. For more information, tel: 0870 770 333, website: www.dda.org.uk



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Al fresco fun: (top left) Pam finds the Benidorm site too cramped for her liking; (top right) a sunny Boxing Day in Fuseta, the Algarve; (bottom) New Year's Day at the fishing harbour, Fuseta

Bright ideas

For getting on the road, Dan Batten has essentials to suit your motoring needs



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The RAC's Response cover is exclusively for orange/blue badge holders and will stop you worrying about breaking down. Motability customers under the contract hire scheme get free RAC breakdown cover. Tel: 0800 029029, website: www.rac.co.uk/join_rac/response

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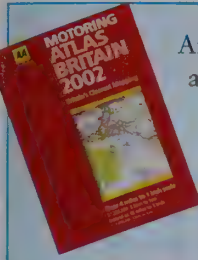
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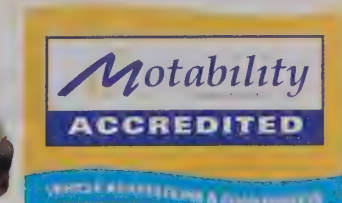
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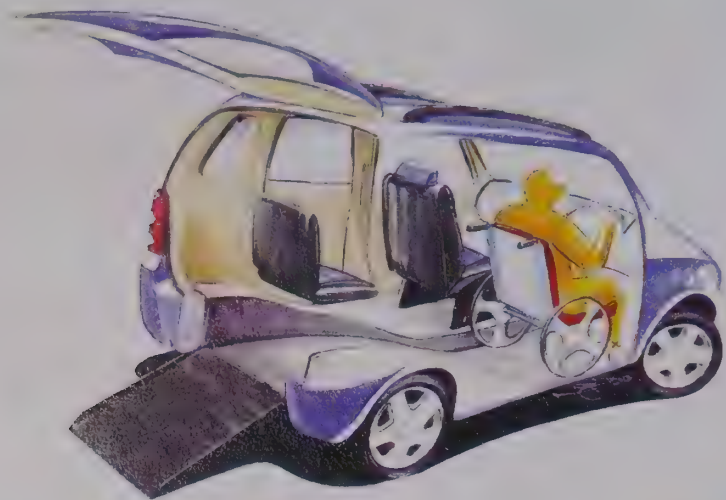
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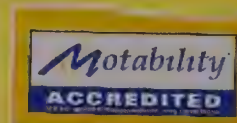
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TV

Has anyone told Kenny on C4's *The Book Group* that he'd be much better off with a Motability car than spending his DLA on all those taxis? OK, I'm being picky. Kenny is actually a hero: he's kind, sensitive, funny and is also – refreshingly – a major babe-magnet in this new drama series. Despite the fact that the actor himself is not disabled (see DN, page 14), it's still something of a breakthrough to feature a disabled sex-symbol.

If the Paralympic squad aren't enough to make you feel inadequate, Katrina Storr may do the trick. She's a charismatic single mother of four and a successful artist who appeared recently on C5's *Open House with Gloria Hunniford*. Oh, and by the way, she has no arms.

Speaking of Paralympics, Tanni Grey Thompson should watch her back. Paula Craig – who has six “vertical” (non-disabled) London marathons under her belt already – successfully competed in this year's London Marathon wheelchair race, a mere eleven months after her spinal injury (BBC1).

I enjoyed *Casualty* (BBC1) ten years ago but its spin-off *Holby City* (BBC1) is ridiculous – surgeons do heart transplants one minute and ingrown toenails the next. Having said that, they tackled an interesting storyline recently when Jean Boht's son with Down's syndrome (played marvelously by James Bell) was controversially chosen to receive a heart transplant over a young married woman. Nice try, but I'm afraid *ER* still does it for me.

They say life imitates art. BBC1's *Diet or Die* introduced Linda, an intelligent, articulate 41-year-old woman who hasn't left her bedroom for the last five years because she weighs 40 stone. Contrast this sad story with ITV1's showing of Eddie Murphy's “comedy”, *The Nutty Professor*. What a pity Linda can't have her DNA restructured like Professor Klump. When science fiction becomes science fact, let me know, will you?

Jane Shepherd

- excellent
- very good
- good
- OK
- poor

Exhibitions

Martin Bruch

Walk past Sadler's Wells Theatre, one of London's new accessible venues, and you will see a row of laminated photos stuck to the glass front wall. At first glance, they look like photos you chuck out when you get your film developed – skewed shots of your foot, a bit of sky with half a surprised face taken by an enthusiastic three-year-old.

In fact, they are the first in a series by Austrian artist Martin Bruch called *Bruchlandungen – Crashlandings*. In 1996, having fallen over, Bruch noticed the different perspective at ground level, and photographed it. Bruch, who has ms, falls a lot.

It is a fascinating series that works through its cumulative effect. We see repeated shots of pavements, his legs, furniture, his scooter, bystanders. As the series progresses, a wheelchair replaces the scooter and “black” photos appear giving a time and place with no image, where we understand that the fall was more serious. We also get stories emerging from one day to the next.

The strongest element for me is the people who appear, whose faces reveal something of the complexity of the situation. Falling over in public is a strangely intimate thing to do and potentially very undignified (believe me, I speak from experience). Although the falling over itself – to the initiated – is often no more than a minor and very ordinary irritation, other people's reaction can be both



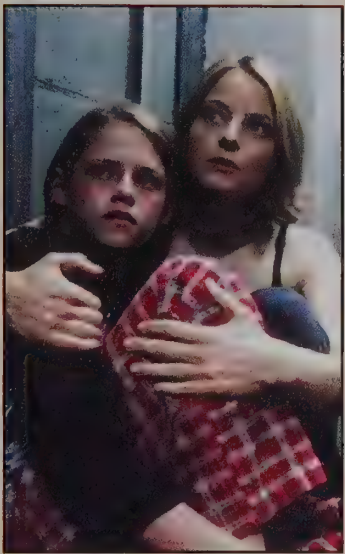
misplaced and overwhelming.

Also showing is *Handbike Movie* where we see the streets of Vienna as filmed by Bruch on his handbike with a movie camera strapped to his head. Again, the effect gradually builds to a complex picture of weakness and strength, vulnerability and

determination. As an exhibition, this is an excellent testament to different perspectives and the day-to-day ordinariness of living with a disability. This is disability art as it should be.

Until 21 July at Sadler's Wells, London. Tel: 020 7863 8000
Adam Reynolds

Film



Panic Room

David Fincher's *Panic Room* combines two staple Hollywood plots: one about a vulnerable female besieged in an empty house, and one about a group of crooks falling out with each other – *Wait Until Dark* meets *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*.

Meg Altman (Jodie Foster), a divorcee with a teenage daughter, Sarah, buys a brownstone house that belonged to an eccentric millionaire. The paranoid recluse installed a “panic room”, a fortified space for the house's inhabitants to

take refuge if anyone breaks into the house. But they don't realise that he left several million dollars in a secret floor safe.

The first night, thieves break in. Meg grabs Sarah and takes refuge (left). But the safe is in the panic room. The two women are under siege, and one of the intruders knows the room well: he built it “to keep out people like us”.

Furthermore, Sarah is diabetic and, guess what, her insulin is outside the room. As Sarah starts to slip into coma, Meg knows that unless she makes a break for the drugs,

her daughter will die.

It's great stuff: tautly plotted, full of unexpected developments and visually exciting. Fincher's camera swoops about the house like a raptor descending on its prey.

The film has further disability interest because the previous owner was a wheelchair user. This has to be the first thriller making significant use of access features. And (read this and tremble), the reason the intruders know about the money is that one of them was the old man's facilitator.

Allan Sutherland

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Transport for London



Cycling can give you the boost you need, finds Allan Sutherland – it doesn't matter how old you are...

Wheel just

The Hoening Copilot 3 is a tricycle-tandem with two wheels in the front, designed so that an active youngster can work off plenty of energy, while a watchful adult sits behind. The double front wheel allows the adult to steer and means that it handles much like an ordinary bicycle, without the awkwardness of a regular tandem.

We tested the bike in London's Dulwich Park, with the help of Frank Allen and his son Jordan (11).

Jordan has a weak left side and mild learning disability after having surgery as a baby, but can be very active. "He tears round like anything," said his father. "He has so much energy he wears me out."

Frank and Jordan are exactly the kind of partnership that this machine is designed for. The only adaptation required was a pedal strap to hold Jordan's left foot.

After trying it, Frank was full of praise. "It was fantastic. It's great to have the safety of knowing you're in charge, but seeing the kid having fun at the front as well. Jordan has so much power, he was pedalling



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The wheel world: Frank Allen and his son Jordan (top left) try out the Hoening Copilot 3 in Dulwich Park. Above, the only adaptation Jordan needed was a pedal strap for his foot.

me along. He loved it."

Frank also praised the machine's construction. "It's solid, and it handles easily. It's well-balanced, and sweet to ride. I'd buy it straight away if I could afford it. It would go on the back of my camper van – I've got a big rack. We could take it down to Ramsgate when we visit relations and go out for a two or three mile ride."

As for Jordan, he didn't say much, but his reluctance to get off spoke for itself. Thanks to Southwark

Contact-a-Family and London Recumbents for helping to organise this test.

The Hoening Copilot starts at £2,100. For more information, contact London Recumbents, Rangers Yard, Dulwich Park, College Road, London SE21 7BQ, tel/fax: 020 8299 6636, email: recumbents@aol.com, website: www.londonrecumbents.co.uk

You can find other cycling features by Allan Sutherland in DN March and October 2001.

keep rolling

As we begin to get very old, most of us hope to maintain our independence as long as possible," says 86-year-old John Hammond. "It is at this stage that the bicycle becomes a priceless asset, far more valuable than at any earlier period in one's life."

John has been cycling since he was 12. "In the 1930s I joined the Cyclists Touring Club. We used to meet at 8am every Sunday morning and ride 80-100 miles. It was easier then, because there was less traffic."

But it was after retiring that he really started cycling seriously. "I've done more cycling since I got older than I ever did when younger." When he was 67, John rode from Land's End to John O'Groats, a journey which took 13 days. "That was one of the best holidays I've had in my life".

Despite "a slight stroke" two years ago, John still uses his bike as basic transport for tasks like shopping.

Once a week he goes out with the "easy-riders" section of the Midweek Wayfarers, with seven octogenarians and two nonagenarians, including 95-year-old Ron Beams, who rides a power-assisted recumbent. "The younger chaps, the ones in their seventies, ride

about forty miles," says John. "I get the train down and join them for coffee, then ride back – about 25 miles."

92-year old Geoff Godber-Ford, of Wellington, Somerset is another cyclist who still rides with enthusiasm. "I used to average 9,000 to 14,000 miles a year," he says.

These days, my legs are very painful and I cannot stand up without being held up. I've had a Pashley sprung-frame cycle made into a tricycle. I could only ride it on flat roads, so I have had a Heinzmann electric motor fitted on the front wheel. These are made in Austria and are very smooth and light.

"I cycle to keep my thighs from withering away. Having to sit in an electric wheelchair all day, I must make myself use my legs. If I stand, even held, after about half a minute the pain from my feet to the bottom of my legs is indescribable and I shake all over.

"Yet when I am pedalling on the trike I hardly get any pain. With the electric motor I keep pedalling all the time, even downhill, and can now ride about 7mph uphill without assistance. I manage to ride about three miles four or five times a week."



Boy racer: John Hammond has been cycling for more than 70 years.

EVENTS

The Bike Try-out Roadshows are now run by Company of Cyclists, who usually take around 35 bikes, including several multi-seat machines. Their bus also includes "a wheelchair-access audio-visual room". Upcoming dates: Derby (31 May-1 June), Tunbridge Wells (8 June), Eastwood (9 June), Kingston Upon Thames (15 June), Northern Ireland (15-16 June) Cambridge Cycling Festival (16 June), Belfast (17 June) Bromley (17 June), Leeds (18 June), University of East Anglia (19 June), Poole (20 June), Stevenage (21 June), Liverpool Cycling Festival (21-22 June), Hereford (22 June), Portsmouth (23 June), Ledbury (23 June) Whitley Bay (13-14 July), Rutland (20-27 July), Bedford (21 July), Stockton on Tees (21 July), Watford (14 August), Ellesmere Port (18 August), St. Albans (26 August), Coventry (21 Sept), and Croydon (21-22 Sept). Shows run 10am-6pm, but check details. *Company of Cyclists*, 7 Coda Avenue, York, YO23 2SE. Tel: 01904 778080/778963. Email: jm@compofcyclists.demon.co.uk, website: www.companyofcyclists.com

CYCLE GUIDE

The collapse last year of Open Road publishers threatened the end of Encyclopaedia, their annual "guide to alternatives in cycling" and of the associated roadshows, where members of the public got the chance to try for themselves a range of non-standard bikes of various types.

Fortunately both have survived. Encyclopaedia 2002 is due to appear in late May. £12. Contact Allan Davidson, Encyclopaedia Ltd, PO Box 317, Stockport, SK2 7YH. Website: www.encyclopaedia.com

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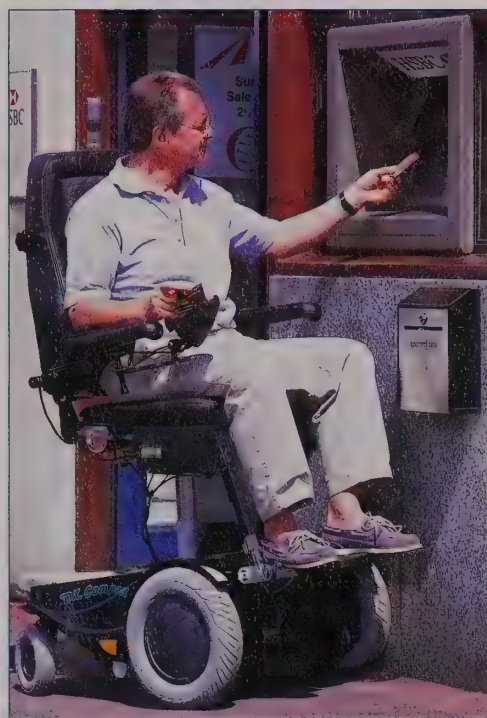
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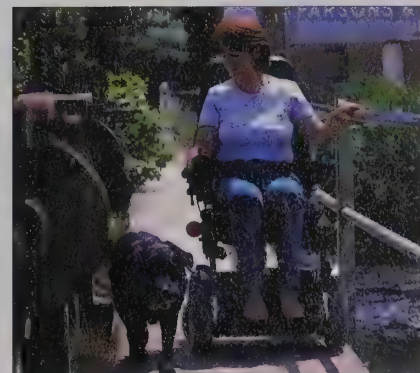
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Proof against failure



George Pulman QC has some solid advice for avoiding the pitfalls that occur when claiming accident damages

Tom, 35, ran a successful DIY and timber yard business. It gave him and his partner a good income. They could afford foreign holidays and he had bought one luxury: a high powered motor bike.

Riding home one day, a car did a U-turn in front of Tom. The collision was unavoidable. Tom suffered bad injuries.

He made a good recovery from the bone injuries, and was back at work after about eight weeks. But he was a different man. He suffered post-traumatic stress disorder with blinding headaches and memory loss, which led to depression.

Despite overwhelming evidence, the other driver's insurance company continued to deny liability – for five years. They said it was Tom's fault. Because of the depression, his business went down hill and he had to sell up. He used the money for holidays, to try to save his marriage, which failed, and for re-training abroad.

Tom claimed damages for physical and mental injury, loss of income and marital breakdown. But there were problems.

Pitfalls to avoid

1. The insurance company instructed a famous psychiatrist, who argued that the physical and mental effects of the accidents had ended within six months. Everything else (the loss of the business, the depression, the break up of the marriage) would have happened in any event, he said, so there could be no damages for any of these. Under cross-examination, it was shown that the psychiatrist's "opinion" was unsupported by any of the medical notes taken at the time, or by any other doctor.

Don't be frightened by the insurance company doctor – he can be shown to be wrong.

2. Tom's business was a cash business and some cash did not get into the accounts. So, on paper, Tom appeared to be earning at a modest rate, and his tax bill was low. But if he had said at the damages hearing before the judge: "I was actually earning a lot more that didn't get into the accounts", the insurance company would have accused him of defrauding



It could be you: in 2000, 605 motorcyclists were killed and over 27,000 were injured. The Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions launched a motorcycle safety campaign in May.

the Inland Revenue.

Limit your claim for loss of earnings to what you declared for income tax and you will not have to pay a lot of back tax. But it will mean that your claim is lower.

3. It is often claimed that one cannot be awarded "damages for divorce". That applies only to cash settlements, and it relies on an old case.

Substantial damages can be awarded for loss of enjoyment, for loss of happiness, for no longer being with your children and having to live alone.

4. Due to delay by Tom's solicitor, the case took so long to get to court that Tom's depression was prolonged. Fortunately for Tom, the insurance company did not know about a case which said that: "Delay caused by the claimant's solicitors is not delay caused by the original defendant who was negligent". In other words, damages for the continuing depression would not have been the responsibility of the defendants, but of Tom's solicitors. This would have meant a new negligence claim – against his own solicitors. *If your solicitor delayed proceedings, don't try to blame the other side. It may come back on you.*

5. Tom got his damages, but he had run up a lot of debts, enough to eat up all the money. The damages included money for immediate private cognitive behaviour therapy because the alternative would have been a two-year wait for NHS treatment.

A special Personal Injury Trust was set up into which all the damages were paid. This ensured that the money for private medical treatment was

ring-fenced. Tom also continued to receive state benefits which would otherwise have been stopped because he had exceeded his capital limit.

People with disabilities have a harder struggle to get damages, and the legal issues are not always straightforward, either. Even so, claims for damages are won on evidence, and insurance companies cannot defeat good evidence from respected expert witnesses. But getting that evidence requires specialist knowledge.



George Pulman QC: "Don't be frightened by the insurance company doctor – he can be shown to be wrong."

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Three cheers for volunteers

Why do people give up their time for free? Dan Batten talks to three volunteers to find out

Imagine looking at a job ad which reads: "Hard work, possibly involving evenings and weekends. No holiday pay. Salary: expenses only".

This is not many people's idea of a dream job. But lots of people accept similar working conditions when they become a volunteer. Though the financial rewards are non-existent, the personal ones are attractive.

So how do you get involved? Firstly, consider your skills and who would benefit from them. If you want to develop skills you can use later in a paid job, make sure the place you choose will let you do so.

You also need to know how much time you want to give. As you are not signing a contract, you aren't obliged to work a set number of hours, and you

'I like to share my personal knowledge of Usher and help others learn to live with and understand it'

could do as little as an hour or two a month. Some charities, such as Mencap, have online volunteer application forms.

An organisation will want to meet you to find out a few things, including why you want to volunteer for them, your skills and what you hope to gain. This is a good opportunity for you to ask questions. It's also a good idea to meet the people you'd be working with.

Linsey Truss works as a volunteer for deafblind charity Sense. Linsey, who has Usher syndrome, says: "I like to share my personal knowledge of Usher and help others learn to live with and understand it."

Mencap, tel: 020 7454 0454, website: www.mencap.org.uk

The National Association of Volunteer Bureaux,

tel: 0121 633 4555, www.navb.org.uk

The National Centre for Volunteering offers advice for anyone wanting to become a volunteer and publishes *TimeGuide*, a free publication with ideas and contacts, tel: 020 7520 8900, website: www.volunteering.org.uk. For a copy of *TimeGuide*, send an A5 envelope with 33p postage to Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL.

Skill have published *Into Volunteering: Positive Experiences of Disabled People*, which carries case studies of disabled volunteers and advice. Free to disabled people, tel: 020 7450 0620.

VSO enquiries team, tel: 020 8780 7500. To speak with a working VSO volunteer, tel: 0845 603 0027, weekdays 6-9pm, website: www.vso.org.uk



Hands-on experience: volunteer Linsey Truss hopes her work at charity Sense will lead to a paid job

She isn't afraid to do this on a big stage either, speaking at Sense conferences.

Linsey, 23, works one day a week at Sense's head office, where she does admin work.

She is also youth representative for Usher UK, where she arranges social events for young people with

ill. Roger was helped by a disability employment adviser to retrain as a graphics assistant. He enrolled on a course, which found him a placement with Scope, and after a stint as a volunteer, Roger was offered three days a week paid work with the charity's creative services team.

"My job involves redesigning brochures that are outdated, scanning photos and looking after an ever growing photo library," says Roger.

He helps set up exhibitions and has used his architectural

knowledge to make areas of Scope offices more comfortable places to work. He also came up with a concept for a tube map showing all the stations accessible to wheelchair users.

"I enjoy the company in the office and am glad to be out and about and doing things of a technical nature," he says.

He has still got the volunteer bug, though, and is considering offering his services to a local Buddhist temple.

Although lots of people give their time close to home, there are chances to volunteer

abroad. Richard O'Brien, 38, decided to pack his bags and become a volunteer for VSO. He is now a primary school inspector who teaches children with special needs in Buriram Province, North East Thailand.

Richard, who has shortened arms, taught for ten years in London and initially didn't think he was VSO material. It conjured up "images of twenty-something young men and women working in a remote part of Africa". But at pre-departure courses he discovered he was one of the youngest there.

His experiences as a disabled teacher in Thailand are very different to those he had in England. "In Thailand there is a feeling of genuine amazement that a disabled person can write, feed himself, etc."

He realises he can't change the world, but wants to do his bit.

"Thailand is starting to integrate disabled children and I hope my experience of the British education system can help," he says.

As our volunteers show, your know-how could fill a gap in someone's life and open some new doors to yours.

So go on, be a volunteer and spread some good cheer.



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ILLUSTRATION BY CLARE CURTIS

Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

Ann Darnbrough, who is disabled herself, is co-author of the *Directory for Disabled People* and other guides.

Write to her at *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or email your problem to editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



Mr Right will turn up

My boyfriend and I have broken up and I am so depressed I don't know what to do. I really did think he was going to be my life partner.

I feel so miserable I can't even think of having another relationship. That would probably go wrong too.

Amy, Glasgow

It is the most natural thing in the world to feel depressed when fate hurls a rock at us. Get up and show yourself (and anyone else in sight) that you are not beaten. Don't blame yourself. He clearly wasn't the right guy for you and you are so lucky that you have found out early on.

Now's the time to look for new friendships and those you may have neglected while you were in an intense relationship.

Believe me, the right man will come along, probably when you least expect it, but you must get out and about or you will never find him or enjoy your life.

Working it out

I had a serious motorbike accident two years ago. I have been in and out of hospital since then and have spent time coming to terms with my paraplegia.

Now I am ready to think about getting work. The trouble is, I was a mechanic and will hardly be able to crawl around under cars any more.

John, Liverpool

What is really important is that you decide what skill you want and then find the training. Get advice from the Spinal Injuries Association, who can put you in touch with people who have

been in a similar position.

Jobcentres haven't always had a very good image. But the new Jobcentre Plus offices should provide a more effective service.

Disability employment advisers can provide advice and support even after you get a job. Other services include Jobseeker Direct, where advisers will search a job database for you, and there is a website where you can search for yourself.

DN April had a 12-page supplement on employment. Take a look at that to get more information and contacts.

Overcoming fear

My 25-year-old daughter suffers from agoraphobia (fear of open spaces). For a long time, we tried to pretend that it was just a passing phase and did everything to encourage her to come out with us. But she just could not manage it and suffered awful panic attacks.

Her doctor prescribed tranquillisers and anti-depressants, but she didn't want to take drugs. Now we don't know where to turn.

Mavis, Eastbourne

Certainly, phobias can result in very disabling conditions which

can last for many years, even life. It is said that one in ten people in the UK has some kind of phobia.

I do not know them personally, but I have been hearing about Triumph Over Phobia (TOP UK), who claim considerable success. They are partially funded by the Department of Health.

TOP UK is setting up a national network of self-help groups for adults, run by trained volunteers, most of whom have themselves overcome a problem with a phobia or an obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). Group members learn self-care in the management of their phobia or OCD. They follow a graded self-exposure method as explained in the book *Living in Fear* by Professor Isaac Marks of Imperial College.

I recommend you get hold of TOP UK's information pack, which includes details of local

groups, and consider buying the book. No drugs are recommended. The average recovery time is said to be five months.

Will I have sex again?

I am 46 and was born with spina bifida. Now I also have diabetes, which at present is controlled by tablets and diet.

I am unable to have a complete erection and my doctor says this is caused by the diabetes. He gave me viagra, but this did not help at all and, in fact, gave me a nasty itching on my arms and torso.

I feel I will never be able to have sex again.

Phillip, Glamorgan

I suggest you contact Diabetes UK. They are familiar with this problem and have publications that you might find useful.

As I understand it, the problem is caused by the effect of diabetes on nerve endings, and your GP may consider referral to a nerve specialist.

Some men can get implants. Find out more by getting in touch with SPOD (The Association to Aid the Sexual and Personal Relationships of People with a Disability).

You could also contact the Impotence Association.

Diabetes UK, Quebec House, Castlebridge, Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff CF11 9AB, tel: 029 2066 8276, website: www.diabetes.org.uk

The Impotence Association, PO Box 10296, London SW17 9WH, tel: 020 8767 7791.

Jobseeker Direct, tel: 0845 606 0234, minicom: 0845 605 5255, website: www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Spinal Injuries Association, 76 St James's Lane, London N10 3DF, tel: 020 8444 2121.

SPOD, 286 Camden Road, London N7 0BJ, tel: 020 7607 9191, Tues and Thurs 11am-2pm.

Triumph over Phobia, PO Box 1831, Bath BA2 4YW, tel: 01225 330353, website: www.triumphoverphobia.com



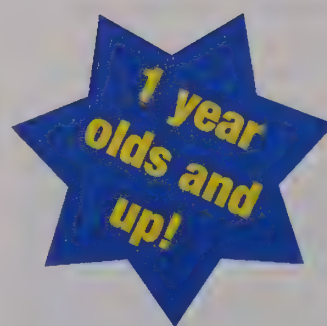
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DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick gives disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, with a postgraduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. If you have something you need to discuss in confidence, talk to her on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm, tel: 01787 882111.

Bright ideas

Dan Batten is never at a loss for words when it comes to the latest equipment

Do you get aches and pains when you're out and feel powerless to do anything about them? Try a pocket massager and soothe those discomforts away. The tiny massager fits onto your finger, which means you can carry it in your pocket or bag. It offers pinpoint control to make sure the vibrations hit the right spot. £14.99 from Boys Stuff, tel: 0870 745 2000, www.boysstuff.co.uk



Parents with toddlers who want something a bit more contemporary than an old fashioned buggy should check out the new streamlined Eco Buggy from Otto Bock. The buggy has a sturdy but lightweight aluminium frame and can carry a child who weighs up to 50kg (that's 110lbs in old money).

It has an umbrella-style folding mechanism and a reinforced back and backrest allowing the seat to extend and offer more legroom as the child grows. It also comes with a lap belt and folding shopping basket. £299.

Tel: 01784 744900, www.ottobock.co.uk

If you have an existing medical condition, it could be a smart move to wear a MedicAlert bracelet or necklet. These carry details of the wearer's main medical condition, a personal ID number and a 24-hour phone number with details of hospital bed availability throughout the home counties. Members also carry a plastic membership card which holds their medical details. Prices start from £19.95, with a £10 annual fee, tel: 0800 581420, www.medicalert.org.uk



Ever have trouble finding the light cord when it's dark? Then invest in a luminous light pull. The light bulb shaped handle charges itself up on daylight and then glows throughout the dark wee small hours, helping you to find your way to the light cord. It also gives off a comforting glow for young ones who want to avoid those monsters at night! £12.95, tel: 0870 241 1066, www.iwantoneofthose.com

Need help keeping clean while eating, but hate wearing towels or bibs? A waistcoat or blouse bib from Special Care Products may be just what you need. The waistcoat comes in a paisley pattern while the blouse is navy with a white lace collar. You can choose from three absorbency levels and the bibs can be machine-washed and tumble dried. There is also the mealtime protector with tuck-in knee flaps for wheelchair users. Prices start at £7.99. tel: 01293 775800, www.specialcareproducts.com

Anyone who uses a headpointer or mouthstick to access their computer should check out the new headpointer helmet from beandesign. Designed in conjunction with head-painter Carl Barton, the aluminium helmet weighs just 120gms, keeping your face free while using your headpointer or mouthstick. The helmet can also be used to turn book pages and has a slot to hold a paintbrush if you fancy dashing off a quick Monet copy. £146 from beandesign, tel: 01865 429782, www.beandesign.co.uk

Heard of any gadgets, devices or equipment that others could find helpful? Send your ideas to Dan Batten at DN, tel: 020 7619 7323, e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



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Ian Rideout from the charity 'Cerebral Palsy Action', based at Alness in Scotland, is confident that the Bambach Saddle Seat® will help to ease the pain and improve the mobility of many disabled people who are now forced to slump in uncomfortable positions that make movement difficult. He commented, *"Improving their posture allows them freedom to move, and with that comes more capability and greater independence and self-esteem."*

Young Jordan Padley, 14, from Stafford, is one youngster whose life has been transformed. Jordan has cerebral palsy and has been a wheelchair user all his life. Since using the Bambach Saddle Seat®, as well as experiencing its many benefits at home and at school, he has also been able to take up the sport snooker! This has improved Jordan's concentration and confidence.



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DN marks June's Golden Jubilee Weekend with a right royal test on some of the highlights of the Queen's 50-year reign.

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- ACROSS
1. 1953 – Hillary and Tenzing conquered it just before the Queen’s coronation (5,7)

6. 1956 – Egyptian ruler who nationalised the Suez Canal (6)

7. 1974 – Disposable, lightweight, plastic ones were invented in Boston (6)

8. 1984 – Hundreds died when poison ____ escaped from a plant outside Bhopal in India (3)

11. 1984 – He won four gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympics (5)

13. 1973 – Tax introduced to Britain (3)

15. 1969 – Biafra’s attempts to secede from this country led to awful starvation (7)

16. 1993 – The Grand National was abandoned but Commander In Chief won this race (5)

19. 1991 – His troops were expelled from Kuwait (6,7)

20. 2000 – These celebrations included the opening of The Millennium Dome (3,4)

22. 1988 – *The ____ Verses* was published, Salman Rushdie’s book which led to a death sentence being imposed by Ayatollah Khomeini (7)

23. 1987 – Gorbachev’s policy of political openness and accountability (8)

26. 2002 – ____ Digital, the company which reneged on its football deal (3)

27. 1996 – Sporting legend who lit the Olympic Flame at the Atlanta Olympics (3)

28. 1998 – The Good Friday Agreement led to a new ____ in Northern Ireland politics (3)

30. 1952 to 2002 – She has reigned throughout this period (5)

31. 1975 – Creature that caused terror in the year’s biggest movie, *Jaws* (5)

34. 1958 – 17-year-old Pelé played for this World Cup-winning team (6)

35. 1980 – He was shot dead by Mark Chapman in New York (6)

38. 1999 – ____ *A Knockout*, the cult programme resurrected by Channel 5 (3)

41. 1985 – Bob Geldof’s concert to benefit Ethiopia’s famine victims (4,3)

44. 1982 – Britain succeeded in this war against Argentina (9)

46. 1997 – Where Tyson bit Holyfield (3)

47. 1994 – The Queen and President Mitterand opened this Channel link (6)

48. 1972 – Korbuto, the gymnastics heroine of the Munich Olympics (4)

49. 1986 – He met Gorbachev in Reykjavik to discuss nuclear arms limitation (6)

50. 1961 – USSR won this race when Yuri Gagarin made a complete circuit of the Earth in Vostok I (5)

- DOWN
1. 1966 – He lifted the World Cup for England (5)

2. 1952 – US politician who wept on television, denying that he had embezzled Republican Party funds (5)

3. 1955 – Theory of Relativity physicist who died in April (8)

4. 1959 – American-born sculptor who died, having done his major work in England (7)

5. 1957 – British Prime Minister who resigned after the Suez Crisis (4)

8. 1983 – Caribbean island invaded by US troops (7)

9. 1992 – He replaced Neil Kinnock as Labour leader (5)

10. 1960 – With the birth of Prince Andrew, the Duke of Edinburgh became one for the third time (3)

12. 1967 – Israel’s decisive victory over its Arab neighbours (3,3,3)

14. 1979 – After the overthrow of the Shah, Ayatollah Khomeini returned to this Iranian city in triumph (7)

17. 1954 – British athlete who broke the four-minute mile (9)

18. 1990 – Daniel Day-Lewis won a Best Actor one for his performance in *My Left Foot* (5)

19. 1981 – Derby winner who later disappeared in mysterious circumstances (7)

21. 1965 – This country unilaterally declared independence from Great Britain (8)

24. 1989 – The massacre at Tiananmen Square was symbolized in a photograph featuring a student confronting this vehicle (4)

25. 1977 – Carrie, female star of the year’s blockbuster film *Star Wars* (6)

29. 1976 – The biggest pop band since The Beatles, their 1976 hits were *Dancing Queen*, *Fernando* and *Money Money Money* (4)

30. 1964 – Mini-skirt pioneer of Swinging Sixties London (5)

32. 1970 – Royal princess who became President of Save The Children Fund (4)

33. 1963 – His assassination in Dallas stunned the world (7)

36. 1962 – First commercially developed satellite, launched into orbit in July (7)

37. 1995 – Country condemned for nuclear testing in the South Pacific (6)

39. 2001 – He was elected Prime Minister of Israel (6)

40. 1971 – Connery, who made his second-last appearance as James Bond in *Diamonds Are Forever* (4)

42. 1978 – US Pioneer probe went into orbit around this planet (5)

43. 2002 – The Pyramid ____, venue for the Tyson–Lewis boxing showdown in June (5)

45. 1968 – Civil Rights leader assassinated in April (4)

CROSSWORD BY JIM MCLAREN
ILLUSTRATION BY VALERIE BARR
ANSWERS ON PAGE 28

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disabilitynow June 2002

• What's on

The Manchester Disabled Lesbians Group will hold a cartooning workshop, 22-23 July, in Manchester. The aim is to produce humorous and challenging images on life as a disabled lesbian. The images produced will be printed later and distributed as posters and postcards in the North West to highlight discrimination. Contact the Lesbian Community Project, tel: 0161 273 7128, email: mail@manchesterlcp.org.uk

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People will hold a celebration open day to mark their 20th anniversary, 16 June, at The Grange, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Buckinghamshire. Events will include a have-a-go field, where dogs can take part in agility and speed tests and an obstacle course. Humans can watch line-dancing dogs or the Flying Gunners motorcycle display team. Entrance is £4 for adults and £1 for children. Tel: 01844 348100.

The Down's Syndrome Association will hold a conference, Dementia and People with Down's Syndrome at Jury's Bristol Hotel, Prince Street, Bristol, 10am-3pm, 17 June. It will look at what dementia is, the role of the care worker in diagnosis and carers' experiences, as well as strategies for supporting someone with dementia. There will also be an overview of current research into dementia. £40 professionals, £10 carers. Contact Rachel Pike, tel: 0117 317 9598, email: rpike@dsasouthwest.org.uk

1 Voice-Communicating Together, a charity offering support and networking opportunities for children and families who use communication aids, will hold a family fun day, 11 August, at Holthorpe Hall, Leicester. Visitors will be able to enjoy a wide range of entertainment, explore Holthorpe Hall and its gardens, and have a barbecue lunch. Tickets cost £12 for adults and £6 for children. Accommodation is also available. Tel: 0845 330 7862.

• Website

Motortradedirectory.com lets you book your car in for repairs online. It has details of dealers and service agents across the country, who will confirm your booking within 24 hours.

• Awards

Mental Health Media is seeking nominations for this year's Mental Health Media Awards. The awards aim to promote recognition of outstanding coverage of mental health issues. This year, there is a new category for best mental health storyline in a soap or drama. To nominate a programme by 1 July, tel: 020 7700 8171 or email: awards@mhmedia.com

• Fundraising

Sense, the deafblind charity, is organising Challenge Costa Rica, 22 February-3 March 2003, a 300km cycle ride. For details, tel: 020 7272 7774, website: www.sense.org.uk/challenges

• Publications

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) has published the 2002-3 *Directory of Services For Deaf and Hard of Hearing People*. Among other things, the guide includes details of hearing therapists, audiology clinics and residential services. £34.99, tel: 0808 808 0123, textphone: 0808 808 9000.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) has published two information sheets on physiotherapy. *Physiotherapy as a Career* gives advice on how to become a therapist, while *Physiotherapy Support Service* gives details of the RNIB's own support service for blind or visually impaired people training to be a physio. Contact Jane Owen Hutchinson, tel: 020 8223 4950.

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Telephone: 01435 866102 Website: www.tnauk.org.uk Email: info@tnauk.org.uk
Registered Charity 293656

ON LINAGE

Tel: 020 7619 7320, Fax: 020 7619 7331, Minicom: 020 7619 7332,
E-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

• Personal

MALE, AGED 45, 5ft 7", dark hair, visually impaired, seeks female between 35 and 47. Interests are socialising, eg pubs and restaurants, ceramics and art. I live in East London and am willing to travel for a meeting. Correspondence preferably by tape cassette or Braille. Box no: 166

MALE, TALL, GOOD looking, partially sighted, 48 years old looking for a woman, 28-48. Interests are ballroom dancing, cinema and theatre. I enjoy pubs and eating out. Carshalton, Surrey. Box no: 167

MALE CIVIL SERVANT, 37. Interests include rugby, cinema and sci fi. Own home and car. Have suffered anxiety/depression - now controlled. W/ltm lady, 25-40 for friendship/relationship. Cardiff Dave. Box no: 168

FEMALE, LATE 30s, single, gsoh and gregarious seeks males for friendship. Hobbies include cinema, music, holidays, lining out and computers. I also have a disability. Box no: 169

ATTRACTIVE EXOTIC FEMALE, 25, with dark hair, dark eyes, tanned complexion, married to a wheelchair with Freidrich's ataxia. Interests include music, cinema, holidays, computers etc. Looking for friendship, age between 25-35. Box no: 170

MY NAME IS Barry Smith and I am 23 years old. Apart from my CP, I can't walk so I use a chair to get around and a lightwriter to speak with. Box no: 171

MY NAME IS Joel. I am 25 with mild Cerebral Palsy (in my legs). My hobbies include music, cinema, gym and hospital radio. I also love everything to do with the 1950s. I am very independent and enjoy socialising. I am looking for a girl, 20-25, with a similar (mild) condition for a relationship and good times. Box no: 172

MAN, 51, 5FT 7, balding due to radiotherapy but kind, considerate, generous, flat in London Docklands, seeks a lady. Box no: 173

43 YEARS OLD gay guy seeks gay guys

with disability 16-38 years for friendship to correspond with, preferably from East Lancs but would like to hear from others. Box no: 174

• Cars/vans

S MERCEDES VITO 108 diesel Aug 98 reg, blue, 29k miles, Rolac vision ramp and tracking, 5 seats inc driver + wheelchair, fsh, power steering, central locking, Thatcham 1 alarm and immobiliser, rear sun roof, electric front windows, 2 rear open windows, radio/cassette player. £9,600 ono. Tel Jane: 07876 760662 or 0121 353 2520.

VW AUTOSLEEPER CAMPERVAN 1993, L reg, pas, 48k miles, very reliable. MOT April 2003. 2+2 berth, elevating roof, cooker, fridge, heating, ramps and tracking for wheelchair-using passenger, mains hook-up, captain's chair, portapotty, tables. £10,000. Oxon (will travel within reason) Tel: 0711 251857 or tiabee2000@yahoo.co.uk

ELAP ROTATING SEAT fits Citroen BX, 9 months old. Cost £590, £250 ono. Tel: 0191 428 4636.

FORD FIESTA COURIER 1.3, M reg, red, automatic, power steering, 23k miles, 1 year's mot, 4 seats plus wheelchair. Easy rear access ramp, electric winch. Very good condition, £5,950. Tel: 01482 811490.

1998 NISSAN VANETTE 2.3D, S reg, 28,500 miles, tax and MOT November. Ramp, electric winch and fittings for wheelchair. Driver plus wheelchair plus 3 seats. £6,500 ono. Tel: 07774 471675 (Lancs).

BLUE DIESEL FORD Transit, K reg, 32k miles, full year MOT, side lift, 2 wheelchair places, swivel seat on driver's side, hand controls, high roof, rear seat (reclines to double bed), £4,000 ono. Tel: 01480 399535.

FORD FOCUS 1.6, 3 door, auto with Constables carchair, W reg, 5,300 miles, 14 months free servicing. One owner, air conditioning. Cost £19,000, £12,500. Tel: 020 8337 0813.

CHAIRMAN SEAT VISTA 'G' reg, 71k miles, MOT May 03, rear ramp for wheelchair £950. Tel: 01787 223668.

FORD ESCORT LX 1600, R reg, manual, petrol, 12,500 miles. 3 door Constables conversion passenger side. Electric wheelchair and hoist. Air conditioned, power steering, electric windows. Mot October 2002, tax November 2002. £3,950. Tel: 01766 590357.

PEUGEOT 806, CONSTABLES electric power wheel retraction carchair and lift passenger side. P reg Oct 96, 60k miles, royal blue metallic, diesel, 1.9 litre, turbo manual. Air conditioning, electric windows, auto radio/cassette + JVC cd player with remote control. Engine immobiliser + alarm. Seats 6 passengers plus wheelchair passenger. Only one owner, fsh, cost £28,000, will accept £8,990 ono. Tel: 020 8350 9881 or 079 4652 2143.

FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM, L reg, Ricon tail-lift, 3 rear seats, tracking and clamps. £2,500. Tel: 01202 733171.

VW CARAVELLE 2.4 diesel. 1994 M Reg. 64k miles. FSH. One owner from new. Central locking, electric windows. 4 seat + wheelchair. Rear mounted Ricon wheelchair lift. Recaro passenger seat on Ricon 6-way base. Milford Person Lift fitted. Travel in wheelchair or passenger seat. Designed for passenger with no independent mobility. £7,250. Tel: 0114 266 0987.

NISSAN VANETTE 2.3 diesel, P reg, 61k miles. Professionally adapted, wheelchair lift and 2 seats in rear. Surplus to requirements. £5,200. Tel: 01706 645645 (Rochdale, Lancs) or 07887 481640.

FIAT FIORINO 1.3, K reg, 31k miles, fully converted for wheelchair user. Ramp rear access, winch, rear seat, radio/cassette player. Tax and 11 months MOT. Good condition, £1,500. Tel: 01300 320224 (Dorset).

RENAULT 14RN K reg auto, only 38k miles, fitted with Milford Passenger Hoist. Fully maintained, new tyres and battery. £1,750 ono. Tel: 01438 232885 (Stevenage).

VW CARAVELLE 2.5TDI, X reg, ontario green (registered 29.12.2000 VAT free), Universal Mobility adaption with rear access ramp and lowering suspension. Very user friendly. Space for passenger in wheelchair, driver plus 4 passenger seats. Seat next to wheelchair space is removable. Electric sunroof, alloy wheels, central locking and alarm. One owner, vgc, full service history with Volkswagen main dealer - under warranty. Genuine reason for sale. Can be delivered. £15,900 ono. Tel: 01535 664067.

MERCEDES V 230 Trend, 1998 'R' reg. 45k miles, metallic silver, auto, air conditioned, side loading wheelchair lift. Regularly serviced by MB and Interbility. £12,950. Tel: 020 8398 0251 or 07939 034362.

• Wheelchairs/scooter

NIPPY POWERCHAIR, LITTLE used, well maintained. £1,000. Tel: 01782 414078.

HARRIER POWERED WHEELCHAIR, assistant controlled, good condition, £750. Tel: 01300 320224 (Dorset).

CARCHAIR WHEELCHAIR AND hoist system to fit into a standard car seat and avoids the need for a special vehicle. Perfect working order. Bristol area. £900. Tel Jane Coles: 01454 614964.

ELAP ROTATING SEAT to fit Ford Mondeo. Good condition, grey trim. £300 ono. Tel: 01572 822442.

KARELMA TITAN, JOYSTICK operated, bought September 2000 but never used. Cost £2,200, will accept £600 ono. Tel: 01403 822662.

LEADER 4 SCOOTER, 4 wheels with battery, hardly used, still as new. Cost £3,000, would accept £1,200. Tel: 020 8466 1062 (Bromley).

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Mount Everest
6. Nasser 7. Razors 8. Gas
11. Lewis 13. VAT 15. Nigeria
16. Derby 19. Saddam
Hussein 20. New Year
22. Satanic 23. Glasnost
26. ITV 27. Ali 28. Era
30. Queen 31. Shark 34. Brazil
35. Lennon 38. It's 41. Live
Aids 44. Falklands 46. Ear
47. Tunnel 48. Olga
49. Reagan 50. Space

DOWN: 1. Moore 2. Nixon
3. Einstein 4. Epstein 5. Eden
8. Grenada 9. Smith 10. Dad
12. Six Day War 14. Teheran
17. Bannister 18. Oscar
19. Shergar 21. Rhodesia
24. Tank 25. Fisher 29. Abba
30. Quant 32. Anne
33. Kennedy 36. Telstar
37. France 39. Sharon 40. Sean
42. Venus 43. Arena 45. King

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR REGENT, perfect condition. Hardly used, £700 ono. Tel: 020 8595 9680.

LIL TAXI 3 wheel electric scooter, 6 months' warranty remaining, bought in November 2001, sale due to bereavement, speed up to 8 mph. Metallic red, used only once. All relevant documents available. Easily dismantled to go in car. Complete with batteries and charger. Cost £1,395, will accept £950 ono. Tel: 01295 257406.

• Household/family

CHILTERN CEILING HOIST, track approximately 9ft, excellent condition, 2 years old. £600 ono. Tel: 01480 399535.

UNUSED THERAPOSTURE RECLINING Chair. Reclining mechanism for head and feet. Gold fabric finish, full harness AntiCrush device, therapeutic cushion. New, £2,055. £Offers. Tel: 0114 266 0987.

BED IN BED on Therarest bed, moves both up and down, foot raise to required heights. Bed in Bed feet movement double bed. Therarest has telescopic cot sides with a therapeutic mattress. Only been used for 5 days. New, £3,855. £Offers. Tel: 0114 266 0987.

ONE LIGHTWEIGHT (WHEELTECH) steel 18 inch wheelchair plus 2 inch canvas 18" cushion. Hardly used. £299 ono. Tel: 0161 434 0396

TWO CEILING HOISTS - one straight for bedroom, one curved for bathroom. Both one year old and made by Chiltern. Complete with slings and toileting sling. Together new £2,617. £Offers. Tel: 0114 266 0987.

2 STANNAH STAIRLIFTS, short run (each approx 8 steps), installed in private Hampshire house. Old but regularly serviced. Offers. Tel: 01983 406832.

ACORN STAIRLIFT, BIG savings on buying new. 1 year old, fits any straight staircase. Price including inspection, delivery and fitting by Acorn stairlift engineer. £1,500 ono. Tel: 0161 434 0396.

ELECTRICALLY OPERATED THERAPOSTURE single bed. 2 heights - 45cm or 60cm. Head and foot raise. Massage option. Any offers. Tel: 020 8580 2925.

MANGAR LIFTING CUSHION, Mangar guarantee demonstration, free first service. Excellent condition £175 ono. Tel: 01622 688657 (Maidstone).

WALK-IN SPA bath by Premier Bathrooms, to include shower. Cost £2,500 3 years ago but hasn't been used in the last couple of years due to lack of mobility. Disassembled and ready to take away. £800 ono. Tel: 023 8036 0469.

Linage continues on pg 34.

• Recruitment (on pages 29 to 34)

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Extend

...providing BBC work placements for talented disabled people.

Extend a BBC wide work placement scheme offers appropriately qualified disabled people a great opportunity to gain four months paid work placement within the BBC.

Extend will be offering both programme making (Researchers, Web Assistants etc) and non programme making (Finance, HR, IT support etc) placements commencing late October 2002 across the whole of the BBC - throughout the UK including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with the bulk of the placements in London.

If you are interested in taking part, please write to the Diversity Centre with your contact details in full by 30 August 2002. **Ref. 55547/DI**

BBC Diversity Centre (Extend), Room 7020, BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ. Email: diversitycentre@bbc.co.uk

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knowledge

LINEAGE ADVERTS — Due to lack of space in this issue, there is no lineage form. To place a lineage advert, please use the form in the April issue. Alternatively, contact Patrick Durham-Matthews: Tel: 020 7619 7320, E-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

• For Sale

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR SALE

2001 Y Kangoo 1.4i Chairman, Auto, Authentique	£12,500
2000 X Ford Courier TD, Universal Mobility, 6,500 miles	£10,500
1999 V VW Cruiser, Auto diesel, 12,500 miles, tail lift	£13,750
1999 V Kangoo Chairman, 6,500 miles, P.A.S.	£9,500
1999 T Toyota Hiace Cruiser, 38,000 miles, ramp	£9,250
1999 T Renault Trafic Versa 1.9D, 12,000 miles	£9,500
1999 T VW TDi Universal, 9,000 miles, lowering suspension	£11,750
1999 T Brotherwood Sharan, hi-roof, 32,000 miles	£19,250
1998 S Ford Courier Universal, 32,000 miles, winch	£8,495
1998 R Mercedes V230 Trend, 1 owner, 45,000 miles, tail lift	£12,995
1998 R Mercedes Vito Chairman, 113 Auto, 40,000 miles	£12,500
1997 P Fiat Fiorino Chairman, 1 owner, 30,000 miles	£4,750
1996 P Trafic LWB, hi-top, day camper, tail lift, 19,000 miles	£9,500
1996 P Vauxhall Combo Chairman	£6,495
1996 N Transit, Semi Hi Roof. Tail lift, 24,000 miles	£8,750
1996 N Transit Diesel, Semi Hi Roof. Tail lift, 15,000 miles	£9,250
1995 M Escort Chairman, 52,000 miles, lowering suspension, 4 seats	£5,995

Kangoo & Berlingo models Choice of 7
Expert – Scudo – Dispatch models Choice of 4
Trafic & Vanette Cargo models Choice of 7

A selection of 40 WAVs from £2,750 fully serviced with warranty. Demo and delivery anywhere in UK mainland free. Part exchange and vehicles sought for purchase.

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POSITIVE ABOUT
DISABLED PEOPLE

At Barnet, we believe that equal opportunity should be exactly that – giving everybody the chance to be involved and active in an open, communicative and positive environment that creates opportunity for all.

Having recently been awarded two Beacon Council status awards for our initiatives in libraries and greenspaces, we're on our way to achieving this goal. We know that our strength lies in our workforce – so we work hard to ensure our 9,300 strong team reflects the make-up of the diverse community we serve. What's important to us is your ability to do your job, and a commitment to providing the best possible service you can to our residents.

The council offers an incredible array of opportunities ranging from the professional - accountants, architects and teachers – to support roles – such as typists and caterers, and we're always on the lookout for talented people.

You can view a current list of vacancies at www.barnet.gov.uk

If you can't get on the net, a list of vacancies can be obtained by sending a large SAE to The Recruitment Unit, Ravensfield House, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG.

Barnet Council is committed to promoting equality, challenging discrimination and developing social inclusion. We therefore encourage applications from all sections of the community.

We are proud to be Investors in People.

BARNET
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CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



2002-2003
Improving Urban Green Spaces
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education and skills

Interested in a Public Appointment?

Visit our recruitment website at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/recruitment/>

or e-mail: pba.team@dfes.gsi.gov.uk for further details

The department for Education and Skills is committed to making appointments on merit by fair and open processes, taking account of equal opportunities

Women's Health
Outreach and Development Officer
(The Frida Network)

28 hours per week • £21,598 pro rata • Fixed term contract until December 2003

Wanted! Woman to run London self-help network of disabled women with health needs.

Women's Health needs an experienced community outreach worker with an understanding of the issues for disabled women in London. You will continue to develop the Frida Network, a London-based network of disabled women with gynaecological and sexual health needs. You will run information and support activities for disabled women and develop training programmes for those who want to become network volunteers.

You will have experience of community outreach work, empowering disabled women, organising projects and an understanding of the issues for disabled women from all communities.

For an application pack, please send an A4 stamp-addressed envelope (72p) to Women's Health, 52 Featherstone Street, EC1Y 8RT or ring telephone 020 7251 6333 or minicom 020 7490 5489.

You can also e-mail womenshealth@pop3.poptel.org.uk to receive the information by e-mail but please mark your message clearly with the reference FRIDA APPLICATION. This advert and the job pack are also available, on request, in Braille, on tape or in large print.

Closing date: 5 July / Interview date: 25 July. Disabled women are particularly encouraged to apply for this post. Women's Health will offer an interview to all disabled applicants who meet the essential requirements for this job. SDA exemption Section 43 applies.

Registered Charity No.: 296002

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PRE-OWNED & DEMONSTRATOR WAV'S FOR SALE

Mercedes Vito 108Cdi, 2001 '01, 6K miles, Orchid Green WAV, lowered floor rear entrance with ramp, 3 rear passenger seats, Unwin Solo wheelchair & passenger restraints Cost New £18,985	Sell £17,985
VW Caravelle 2.4D, '96 N, red, Lowering suspension, tip up forward facing rear seats, lowered rear access.	£9,975
VW Transporter SWB 1.9TD '95 M, Green, WAV Conversion, 4 Pass Driver & Wheel Chair.	£8,975
Fiat Ulysse 2.0EL, R reg, 50k miles. Lowered floor with ramp. Driver 3 Pass + Wheelchair, PAS, twin sunroofs, climate control & electric windows.	£10,995
Skoda Cube WAV, 1.9D, '98 R, 42k miles, full lowered floor conversion.	£6,975
Renault Extra 1.4, P, WAV, '92k, blue, poyntings lowered floor conversion.	£4,995
Peugeot Partner 1.9D, '98 S, WAV, 6k miles, red, full lowered floor conversion.	£7,750
Fiat Fiorino 1.7D '98 R. Met blue, WAV, full lowered floor conversion.	£5,995

New or ex-demo Renault Kangoo WAVs – call for prices and spec'.

Wheelchair Accessible Motorhome, 2/3 Berth designed from new for disabled person use.

Base vehicle Mercedes 312D Auto '98 R. Remote Control rear doors & Ricon lift. Electric 6 way drivers seat. Plus host of other adaptations. Cost New £45,000. Please call for full specification & price.

All the above vehicles come with our Comprehensive Used Vehicle Warranty

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website: www.gleneaglesconversions.co.uk

Gleneagles
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• Accommodation

Nottingham Independent Venture
is an independent Living scheme run by physically disabled people
Flat available for a disabled person or couple
24 hours care is provided & High level of care can be accommodated
Please contact
Céline 0115 9420931.

• **Conference****CROYDON
MOBILITY FORUM**

Launch Public Meeting

**Wednesday 12th June
at 4.30pm****In the Maple Room
Fairfield Halls**• **Services****INTERCARE COMMUNITY SERVICES
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NEED A TRANSLATION?

I may be able to help. French or Spanish into English. No charge for small assignments. Standard rate £30 per 1000 words. Contact Emily Shields, tel/fax: 01489 894289, e-mail: emily.shields@btinternet.com

**Preparing for the SEN
and Disability Act 2001 -
PROMOTING INCLUSION****Tuesday 2nd July 2002, Paragon Hotel, London SW6**

In September 2002 the Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability Act 2001 comes into effect, with new statutory duties on LEAs and schools to increase progressively the accessibility of schools to children with special educational needs.

This conference will focus on the practical implications of the Act, how best to prepare for the Act and the latest developments in good practice.

Keynote Speaker:

Baroness Cathy Ashton of Upholland,
Minister for Early Years and School Standards, Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Supported by**Speakers Include:**

Ade Adepitan,
Paralympic Athlete and TV Presenter

Richard Brewster,
Chief Executive, Scope

Doug McAvooy,
General Secretary, National Union of Teachers

David Walker,
Broadcaster and Social Policy Specialist
with *The Guardian*

*The Guardian*To view the full conference agenda and to register online visit **www.neilstewartassociates.com/sh117****Conference Producers****Neil Stewart Associates****For further information contact Debbie Young on****tel: 020 7689 9216 fax: 020 7689 8807****e-mail: debbie.young@neilstewartassociates.co.uk****WEST SUSSEX ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED**

**Registered Charity No. 1030537
DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR**

3 days per week – Salary £15,000 p.a. (negotiable)

Following a wide-ranging review, WSAD wishes to appoint an imaginative and highly motivated innovator to maximise the potential to offer a broad-based, well-informed, more pro-active service to physically disabled people in West Sussex.

Some personal experience of physical disability issues would be an advantage.

For further details and application pack, please contact Harry Bates, Director, WSAD, 10 South Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1SU, Tel: 01243-774088 or e-mail: disability@wsad.fsbusiness.co.uk

Closing Date: Monday 10 June 2002• **Contracts & Tenders****Development of 2 User-Run Small Businesses**

The Disability Resource Centre in Tower Hamlets, East London, provides home to a range of community and statutory services and is undergoing major change.

Two projects have emerged that the Council wishes to support in their development as user run businesses.

These are:

Disability Information Training Opportunity - D.I.T.O.

D.I.T.O is a new project with 10 internet connected computers, a range of enabling technologies and a small information resource. D.I.T.O is providing at present 3 functions: 1) internet and computer access, 2) a local disability information signposting service, and 3) work experience and training.

Taffy's Café:

Taffy's Café is based in a spacious dining area, with a commercial sized kitchen and catering equipment. The café also has internet access which it is hoped will form part of the visitors' experience.

Both projects have the potential to develop as valuable and useful community resources. It is hoped that both of these will become "not for profit" income generating, self sufficient user led social firms, of and for local disabled people.

We are eager to hear from organisations or individuals with experience of supporting and developing similar projects who would be in a position to assist us over the next few months to kick-start and provide initial support to develop these services as user-run businesses. Interested parties wishing to register their interest and request further details should contact:

**Stewart Robertson, Principal Manager (Physical Disabilities & Sensory Impairment),
The Disabilities Resource Centre, 40-50 Southern Grove, Mile End, London E3 4PX.
Telephone: 020 7364 6547 (ask for Lynn Walmsley)**

The closing date for expression of interest is Wednesday 10th July 2002, after which date further details will be issued.

• **Recruitment (on pages 29 to 34)****Action on Disability and Development**
*Working with disabled people for positive change***Programme co-ordinator**

ADD has a vision of a world where all disabled people are able to participate as fully as they choose at every level of society.

ADD is an international development agency, working in 12 of the poorest countries of Africa and Asia, to facilitate the work of disabled people's organisations in their campaign for the rightful inclusion of disabled people in society. We have 146 staff: 123 overseas and 23 in the UK.

Our UK office is based in Frome, Somerset, close to major rail links.

The job is to support and manage overseas programmes and partner relationships; to raise funds from institutional donors; and to manage donor contracts. **Salary £19- £23K p.a. depending on experience.**

Disabled people, women and people from Asian or African ethnic origins are particularly encouraged to apply.

For an application pack (available in Braille, large print or on tape)

please contact Tracy Mead at ADD, Vallis House,
57 Vallis Road, Frome, Somerset, BA11 3EG;
Tel: 01373 473064, Fax: 01373 452075
or email: tracy.mead@add.org.uk
Closing date 21 June; interviews week of 15 July

Charity no: 294860



Coventry City Council

Are you equal to our challenge?**Equalities Officer**

£31,254 to £33,384
(starting salary dependent on skills and experience)

Ref: CN/109/02

Full time, 37 hours per week.

We take equality seriously in Coventry. We are committed to improvement but never complacent about progress. We are now seeking an exceptional individual to help ensure our policies and services make a real difference to the lives of women and people from minority groups in the city.

Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team, you will support senior Members and our Chief Executive by managing our equalities strategy and helping us achieve challenging targets for improvement. As an equalities expert you will provide advice and guidance to officers throughout the authority and ensure that our good intentions are translated into reality.

You will have an excellent knowledge of statutory requirements and good practice in relation to equality and diversity, demonstrable planning, policy development and implementation skills and a track record of effective project management.

While you'll have an analytical mind, you must be essentially outgoing with impressive communication, presentation and networking skills.

Application details are available from Central Services Personnel,
1st Floor, Christchurch House, Greyfriars Lane, Coventry CV1 2PS.
Tel: 024 7683 4150. Minicom: 024 7683 4002.
Email: csprecruitment@coventry.gov.uk

Closing date for completed application forms: 17th June 2002.

Working Towards Equality

MAGDA

Museums and Galleries Disability Association
www.magda.org.uk

Invitation to tender

The Museums & Galleries Disability Association (MAGDA) is dedicated to improving access to UK museums and galleries for disabled people, disseminating current best practice and providing a forum for museum and gallery professionals to discuss areas of interest.

In the context of the formation of Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, and the movement towards the creation of cross-domain agencies in all English Regions by 2004, tenders are invited to conduct an options appraisal for MAGDA's strategic development over the next three years.

The successful consultancy will require:

- An understanding of the cultural sector
- Familiarity with the access agenda and disability issues
- Excellent market research skills
- Knowledge and experience of advising organisations in the process of change
- Proven experience of translating a strategic vision into practical proposals

For a copy of the brief please contact MAGDA c/o SEMLAC,
The Garden Room, Historic Dockyard, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 4TE, email GuyP@semlac.org.uk

Deadline Wednesday 19 June 2002

re:source
The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries

• Recruitment (on pages 29 to 34)

Appointment of the London Underground Public Private Partnership Arbiter (the PPP Arbiter)

Terms of appointment: This is a statutory appointment to be reviewed after four years. The post will be part-time (1-2 days per week on average)

Salary: Up to £150k pro rata (though a higher salary may be available to an exceptional candidate)

Location: London

The Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions is seeking to appoint a Public Private Partnership Arbiter (the PPP Arbiter) for the London Underground PPP. This will be a permanent statutory appointment (part-time)

Under the PPP, three private sector companies ("Infracos") will maintain, renew and upgrade discrete parts of London Underground's infrastructure under separate 30 year Service Contracts. The PPP allows for "periodic reviews" of the Service Contract every 7½ years (the first periodic review may therefore take place in 2009/10). The Arbiter's role will be to give direction to the Infracos and London Underground to resolve any differences between them about the price to be paid for service provision. The Arbiter must act independently, swiftly and give certainty at each review. In addition at any time either party can refer particular matters to the Arbiter for guidance and under certain circumstances additional Extraordinary Reviews between periodic reviews may require directions from the Arbiter.

We are looking for a strong and lateral thinker with the professional standing, confidence and resilience required to establish, run and operate in a unique and newly formed organisation. Your personal and professional demeanour and credibility, based upon the highest level of honesty, probity and integrity, will generate trust and confidence in others. In addition you will be able to demonstrate:

- Evidence of success in working in co-operation with a wide range of internal and external bodies including statutory, commercial, and financial organisations;
- Proven ability to provide high quality, clear and balanced advice and guidance in relation to the technical, financial and commercial issues of the PPP;
- An understanding of the objectives, structure and contractual and financing arrangements for public private partnership / private finance initiative style contracts. In the interests of facilitating this key position, the Secretary of State is establishing an interim office with temporary staff. It will be up to the Arbiter, when appointed, to make his/her permanent arrangements.

For an information pack, including an application form and detailed job description, please contact Pauline Clarke, Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, zone 3/26, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR.

Telephone 0207 944 8713 (0900 – 1700 Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays) or email pauline.clarke@dtlr.gsi.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is **7 June 2002**.

DTLR promotes equal opportunities in public appointments. The Department is committed to addressing under-representation of women, people from ethnic minorities and disabled people who have the required skills for appointment. All appointments are made on merit.



• Activity break

EAST MERSEA ACTIVITY CENTRE

MERSEA ISLAND

ESSEX CO5 8SX

Inclusive Adventure Camping Breaks
MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL
 for people with disabilities and their friends

At £30 / day try your hand at a host of new activities and dance and sing the night away. Sun 18th – Fri 23rd Aug or Fri 23rd – Mon 26th Aug. 01206 382940 / telephone or write for more info.

• Review of DDA

Disability Rights Commission

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF DISABILITY LEGISLATION

The Disability Rights Commission is conducting a review of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and is making recommendations for changes which the Commission believes will move us towards full civil rights for disabled people. We are seeking your views on these recommendations.

Have your say – get a copy of the Review, or of the shorter Guide to the review, from the DRC helpline on:

Telephone: **08457 622 633**

Textphone: **08457 622 644**

Fax: **08457 778 878**

Email: **enquiry@drc-gb.org**

A range of formats is available. They come with a questionnaire which you can complete and return free. The completed questionnaires must be received by **16th August 2002**.



WEST OF ENGLAND CENTRE FOR INCLUSIVE LIVING

- 35 hours per week
- 6% contributory pension
- 30 days leave

For application pack please contact:

Wendy Tyler
 WECIL Ltd.
 Leinster Avenue
 Knowle
 Bristol BS4 1AR
 Tel: 0117 903 8900
 (Voice and minicom)

e-mail:
 wendy.tyler@wecil-ltd.demon.co.uk

Over the last seven years the Integrated Living Scheme (ILSA) has established a national reputation as a model of good practice.

ILSA seeks a Disabled Person as

Personal Assistant Employment Advisor (£19,770-£21,078)

We are looking for a committed and enthusiastic Disabled Person to join our team of Advisors to provide advice and support to individual Disabled People in establishing and running their own personal assistance schemes.

Closing date: Friday 21st June 2002

WECIL particularly encourages applications from under represented groups (eg. Black Disabled People, Disabled Lesbians and Gay Men).

Disability Adviser

The FILM COUNCIL has been established by the government as the lead organisation for film in the UK.

For further details on FILM COUNCIL, please see our website:

www.filmcouncil.org.uk

We are recruiting a Disability Adviser to work with the FILM COUNCIL Board and staff to raise awareness of disability issues and provide expert advice. The Disability Adviser will develop and guide implementation of a comprehensive Disability Strategy involving consultation with disabled people. The Disability Adviser will most probably be an individual consultant (but may also be an organisation) with appropriate knowledge and expertise, providing services on a fee paid basis.

You must have a wide understanding of disability issues in the work place (including UK and European legal and regulatory matters) and organisational development strategies in relation to disability. You will have proven experience in delivering such strategies in the public or private sector. You will have excellent proven interpersonal and negotiation skills, knowledge and experience of Equal Opportunities recruitment, selection and other procedures in a medium and complex organisation, to bring about positive change within such an organisation. The role also requires knowledge of the UK film industry and the public arts sector.

For further details, please send a large self-addressed envelope, quoting reference SD/SDC, to: Katherine Montague, FILM COUNCIL, 10 Little Portland Street, London W1W 7JG. Alternatively, apply online at: www.filmcouncil.org.uk/vacancies/

Closing date for applications:
 Friday 14 June 2002.
 Interviews will be held week commencing
 Monday 24 June 2002.

FILM COUNCIL

Promoting equality, celebrating diversity.

• Courses

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FROM DEAFBLIND UK

To help organisations/individuals meet Section 7 guidance set out by Government
 Support Workers Course
 Communication & Guiding Skills
 Manual Interpreting

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:
 Maureen Jobson 01733 358100
maureen@deafblinduk.org.uk

• Personal



Handicate
 Introduction Agency

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For disabled and able-bodied people

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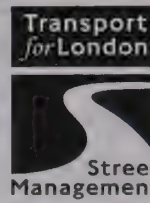
E-mail: handicate@btinternet.com
 Website: www.handicate.com

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 52 Chevallier Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BR
 A member of ABIA



Assistant Director

Street Management Services



Central London

c. £65,000 + benefits

Transport for London Street Management is part of Transport for London (TfL) and reports to the Mayor, Ken Livingstone, and the Greater London Authority. Street Management has a wide range of functions including being the highway and traffic authority for a 550km road network. It is responsible for the operation and maintenance of London's roads and traffic control systems and improving conditions for all those who travel in the capital. TfL also aims to reduce congestion by enhancing alternatives to the car.

Position

- Reporting to the Director of Operations, lead the Street Management Services team to deliver street maintenance on the TfL road network.
- Manage, direct and guide the five Area Managers responsible for the development, management and delivery of maintenance and improvement projects across London.
- Develop effective and productive working relationships across TfL to facilitate the delivery of Street Management Services objectives.
- Participate fully in the corporate management of Street Management Services and the strategic management team.

Qualifications

- Technically qualified - probably as a Chartered Engineer - with an understanding of all recent and relevant legislation and extensive experience of managing project implementation in a public domain.
- Track record of success in exploiting new opportunities in a comparable, large and complex organisation.
- Demonstrable networks in local government and an ability to influence a range of stakeholders up to the most senior level.
- Robust character with an impressive record of people development and the charisma to maintain a high profile within and outside TfL Street Management.

To apply for an information pack please contact Questor International quoting **ref. 3041/DN**. For more information on how we are "Keeping London Moving", visit www.streetmanagement.org.uk



TfL are striving for diversity and welcome applications from all sectors of the community.



e claire@questorint.com

t 020 7297 2001

w www.questorint.com

a Liberty House, 222 Regent Street, London W1B 5TR

Holidays (cont. see pg 33)

Mar Y Sol - Los Cristianos, Tenerife

Wheelchair friendly complex with accessible apartments and studios. Two swimming pools, one heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire. Flights booked with ATOL agents. Call us now for cheapest summer prices on Tel 01395 223272 or Fax 01395 260166

RECIFE FOR HOLIDAY HAPPINESS IN FRANCE

"Take 2 highly recommended wheelchair-friendly farmhouses, add modern comforts, then mix with birdsongs, gamish with views of local vineyards, and serve with good foods and local wines in relaxing sunshine." For individual details and prices, please contact Cheryl: Tel/Fax: (0033) 241501434 or Email: Guinefolle@AOL.COM

Independence & Freedom!

Visit who and when you want in London with 'Visits Un Limited', escorted travel - wheelchair accessible vehicle available.

Phone 020 8776 6967

Books

ARE YOU DIABETIC?

If so, this 48-page awareness book is for you.

"Seeing Things Clearly" is about retinopathy the commonest complication of diabetes.

Written by Jackie Banks, an insulin-dependent diabetic for 42 years, who has lived with retinopathy for 25 years, it covers everything from screening to laser treatment; how to avoid complications, driving with the condition, and much more. Superbly illustrated, available by mail order.

Please send cheque or P.O. for £5.95 (includes p&p) payable to Brent Publications, Fleet House, Armstrong Road, South Benfleet, Essex, SS7 4FH. Telephone: 01268 759333.

Delivery within 28 days. Full refund if not satisfied within 7 days.

BRITAIN

TATE

Make Britain's foremost art more accessible

Access Co-ordinator

Salary: £20,000 pro rata (3 days per week) • two year contract

Tate Britain is the world centre for British art and is committed to providing the widest possible access to its displays and exhibitions. This is a new post in the Interpretation and Education team that is dedicated to improving our services for visitors with special needs.

You will act as a focal point for access issues, facilitating a gallery-wide strategy to raise their profile. This will start with reviewing and updating Tate Britain Access policy. It will be necessary to liaise across all departments to ensure access issues are fully addressed in relation to new exhibitions, displays and building developments. You will also manage and develop the programme of sign-interpreted tours, and the production of large print guides and audio interpretation guides.

A graduate in art or art history, you must have worked for at least two years in a museum or heritage organisation. You also need a year's experience working alongside people with physical disabilities. This will have given you sound knowledge of access issues and their impact on the leisure sector. It's a role that calls for a strong team player and networker, with plenty of initiative and excellent literacy and communication skills. Familiarity with managing budgets and competency in IT is also essential.

For an application pack, please send an A4 SAE, quoting ref. 218/TB, to: Human Resources Department, Tate, Millbank, London SW1P 4RG. Alternatively you can email: annis.kooshesh@tate.org.uk

Closing date: Monday, 10th June 2002.

Tate is working towards equal opportunities

DEADLINES

July 2002 classified deadlines: Booking: 14 June. Copy: 18 June.

ACTION AND RIGHTS OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN NEWHAM

Newham

Are seeking to appoint a disabled person as an **Administrative Worker** for their Newham Independent Living Scheme Project.

25 Hours Per Week

Scale 5.22-6.28 - Salary: £11,908-£14,181 inc L/W

Newham Independent Living Scheme has been set up to enable disabled people to obtain Direct Payments. Your remit will be to support the Development Workers in all aspects of ensuring that the scheme runs effectively. Action and Rights are striving to be an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Closing Date: Friday 28th June 2002

Please request application form enclosing a large SAE from:

Pam Iveson
Action and Rights of Disabled People in Newham
c/o Community Links
105 Barking Road
Canning Town
LONDON E16 4HQ

This Project is funded via a Contract from London Borough of Newham, Social Services Department

Registered Charity No: 1016234

FEATURE FILM DEVELOPMENT INTERSHIPS

Supported by the Lottery through the FILM COUNCIL's Training Fund and managed by FT2 - Film and Television Freelance Training - this 12 week programme is aimed at people who want to develop their skills in the film and television industry. The programme will provide a practical training experience in the industry, with a focus on the development of the creative industries.

Applications forms can be downloaded from www.ft2.org.uk/recruit and need to be printed off, completed and mailed back. Alternatively send an A4 sae marked 'Development' to FT2, 4th Floor, Warwick House, 9 Warwick Street, London W1B 5LY

The closing date for receipt of applications is 7 June

FT2 particularly welcomes applications from women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people with disabilities who are currently unemployed or in the film and television industry

FILM COUNCIL
LOTTERY FUNDED

ft2
FILM & TELEVISION
FREELANCE TRAINING

• Holidays (cont. see pg 34)

Newlands Country House, Suffolk

Purpose built grade 1 wheelchair accessible suites, 4 diamonds. All rooms en-suite, tv. Ample carparking, large garden. For details tel: 01502 722164. www.newlands@southwold.com email: newlandssouthwold@lycos.co.uk

Willow Cottage - The Black Isle, 5 mins drive Inverness.

Beautifully equipped, Tourist Board 3 stars with Disability Award 2.
1 double, 1 twin, both ensuite. Situated on a working croft amid lovely scenery with wildlife park close by. Moray Firth dolphins, kites, buzzards, deer etc, and our Nessel Inverness offers good food, cinema, theatre etc.
Brochure/details, tel: 01463 731455, website: www.hilanddisabledcottageholidays.co.uk

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE

Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. Book now for 2002. Call or fax Ed Passant on 0208 885 4971 or e-mail: ed.passant@mail.com web: www.accessholidays.com

ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

Lots of villas, farmhouses, bungalows, hotels, B&B, car hire with hand controls, adapted vans and plenty to see and do. Contact: David Player
Tel: 00 351 289 393636
Fax: 00 351 289 397448 E-mail: dave@player.pt

www.player.pt**NAISH HOLIDAY VILLAGE:**

Cliff-top park with "excellent" status. New Milton, Hampshire. Excellent site facilities within 100 yards, with indoor/outdoor pools, restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, two bedroom fully wheelchair accessible, log cabin accommodation. Sleeps 6. Well furnished. Free club membership.

GRANGE COURT HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Park with "good" status, Goodrington Sands, Devon. Excellent site facilities within short walk, with indoor/outdoor pools, restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, 2 bedroom, fully wheelchair accessible mobile home. Sleeps 4-6, well appointed. Free club membership. (Purchased with funds from the National Lottery).

Details: Mr P Cash, tel: (01425) 672055 Bournemouth Spina Bifida Association. Registered Charity No. 261914.

10 MINUTES FROM DISNEYLAND

Florida villa owned by paraplegic. Sleeps up to 12, fully accessible and large. King size bed with ensuite bathroom, wc and wheel-in shower. Large pool with water operated seat for a disabled person. A holiday you can take with confidence. Contact John Gillett on: 01179 698770.

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL "Holiday Care Award Winners"

Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.
Please ring or write for colour brochure.
R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617

FREEDOM OF THE GLEN HOTELS

Choose from 3 hotels in spectacular lochside settings near Fort William. Enjoy the freedom to select the hotel which sets the right atmosphere for your break. A choice of 10 rooms with disabled facilities, around the loch.
E-mail: reservations@freedomglen.co.uk
Tel: 01855 8215821, Fax: 01855 821463

www.freedomglen.co.uk**NORTH DEVON CONVERTED BARN**

A completely accessible barn conversion known as 'Two Moors View' has wonderful views over N.Devon countryside. 4 bedrooms, one king size with ensuite wheel-in shower and wc. Large open plan kitchen and living area with all you will need for a comfortable break.
Contact John Gillett on: 01179 698770.

CUMBRIA Idyllic & peaceful beauty spot. The Tranquil Otter Lakeshore Lodges 5 cosy lodges (1 accessible), 2 luxury lodges (both accessible) with accessible sauna, whirlpool bath, log burner etc. Lakeside paths, lake (via wheely boat) and shop all accessible. Resident Otters. Own rowing boat. 01228 576661. www.the-tranquil-otter.co.uk

Near Salisbury - newly converted stable block self-catering units. Ground floor 1 double/twin bedroom en-suite wheel-in shower. Upstairs 1 double, 1 single, shower room. Open plan kitchen & living room. Patio & shared garden. ETB category 2, 4-star highly commended. Non-smoking. Prices from £195 pw. Available all year. Tel: 01722 349002, e-mail: mail@old-stables.co.uk. www.old-stables.co.uk

Brittany Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details **C. Hodgson.**
Tel (01924) 499220.

• Recruitment (on pages 29 to 34)

dti**kmc**
international**IMPROVE YOUR REGION'S PROSPERITY****Make a difference to your Regional Development Agency**

The Regional Development Agencies aim to stimulate economic development and regeneration. All eight RDAs (outside London) are now looking for new Board members to help them to encourage business growth, attract inward investment and build skills.

You work at a senior level in business, are a local councillor or a senior trade union representative - different RDAs have different vacancies. Whatever you

do, you will need to demonstrate a good track record of ideas and successful delivery, and you must have sound knowledge of your region and its economic needs.

If you want to make a difference and can commit two days a month for the next three years, we would like to hear from you by the closing date of Friday, 12th July 2002. If appointed to the Board, you will receive £7,419 p.a.

Further information including details on how to apply can be obtained from the DTI's consultants, **kmc international** at www.kmcinternational.co.uk, by email to rdareponse@kmcinternational.co.uk, by telephone on 0870 990 9333 or by post to PO Box 2095, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9WF. Please quote Ref. 319/4.

**WILL YOU HELP CREATE A RAILWAY FIT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?**

The Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions is seeking to appoint a number of new members to the Board of the Strategic Rail Authority.

The SRA is leading the rail industry to deliver a better, safer, bigger railway for both passengers and freight. Its Strategic Plan sets out how it expects to achieve this. The SRA is now implementing the Plan, in particular by managing rail franchises to deliver benefits for passengers, and working with key stakeholders to develop new ways to deliver major improvements to the network.

We are looking for candidates who have a strategic and perceptive approach; excellent communication skills; are willing to challenge assumptions and speak out; and are able to support and guide senior colleagues. A good understanding of one or more of the following would be particularly valuable:

- the views, interests and priorities of rail passengers;
- the interface between Government and industry;
- consumer issues in a large customer-orientated business;

- large-scale operations and/or engineering; or
- financial management in a large enterprise.

One of the members appointed will also need to be familiar with the special requirements and circumstances of Wales in relation to the railways.

Appointments will be for four years. Members are expected to commit three days a month, including committee and preparatory work, to the SRA. In return they receive an annual fee of £14,190 plus reasonable expenses, including child/elder care, where appropriate. Training for new members will be provided.

For an information pack, including an application form, please telephone 01233 214 529 (8am-10pm, 7 days a week), quoting reference **DTVO**, or e-mail DTVO@SAXBAM.CO.UK. The closing date for applications is **Friday 21 June 2002**.

DTLR promotes equal opportunities in public appointments. Ministers are concerned at the under-representation of women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds and disabled people in public appointments and particularly welcome applications from them.



ADVERTISED RECRUITMENT AND CONSULTANCY
A PRACTICE WITHIN SEXTON BAMPFYLDE HEVER

Norfolk, Nar Valley Holiday Cottages

3 self-catering, all wheelchair accessible, 1 with wheel-in shower room, 2 with airbaths. Mostly en-suite. On working farm - peaceful location, central for beaches and tourist attractions. Indoor heated swimming pool.

More details and prices, contact: Rosemary on 01760 338797.

ODDICOMBE HALL HOTEL

Provides an excellent holiday for the disabled person and their family. We have full disabled facilities and are able to cater for organised parties. All wheelchair accessible rooms open on to a private garden with conservatory and have breathtaking sea views. Private car park with unloading at entrance to the hotel. Open all year. Why not escape and relax at delightful Babbacombe, Torquay? Category 2. Special 3-4 day breaks Nov-April. Discount for group bookings. Tel: (01803) 313457.

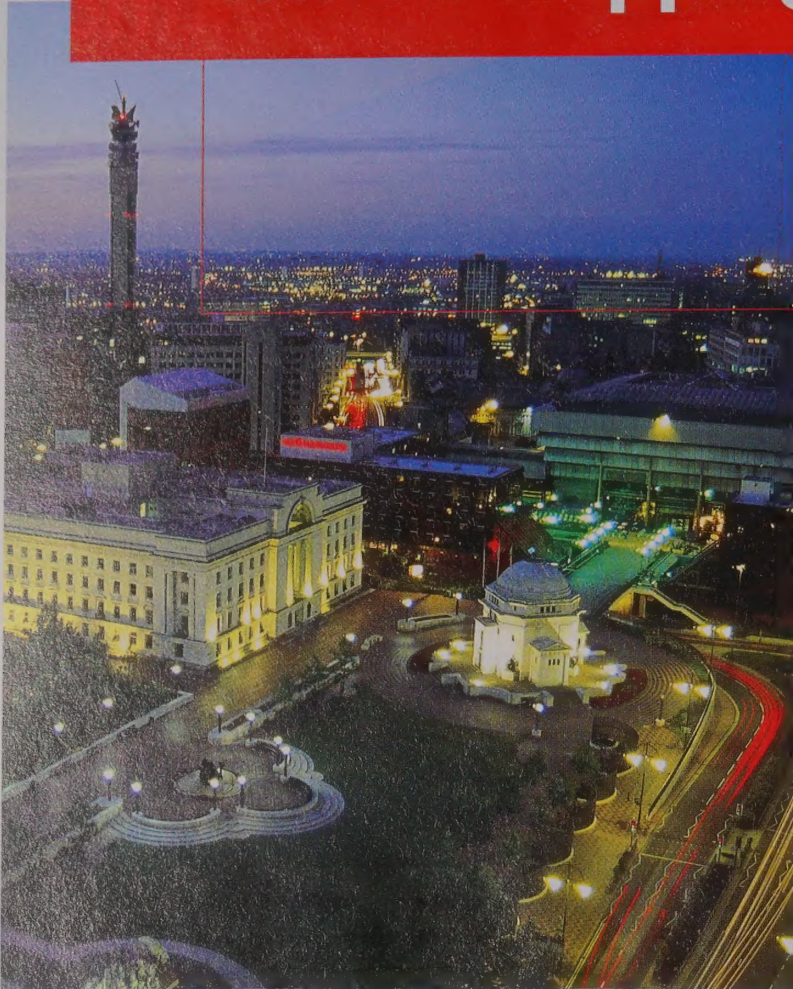
LANZAROTE, HOLIDAY VILLA

Views of the mountains and sea, situated in a quiet, countryside town, 15 mins drive from tourist area. Four twin bedrooms sleeping up to 8, wheelchair friendly with wheel-in shower. Mobility Aids available. For coloured brochure Tel: 00 34 928 838065 email: casabellapalms@yahoo.co.uk

ROYAL DEESIDE SCOTLAND

NEW for 2002. 4 superb self catering cottages located on the banks of the river next to Balmoral. Designed and equipped to the highest standard with state of the art facilities for people with disabilities, their families and friends. Please contact: CRATHIE OPPORTUNITY HOLIDAYS Tel: 013397 42002 for more details or email: info@crathieholidays.org.uk www.crathieholidays.org.uk

What's stopping you?



ARE YOU A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yes we're committed to embracing diversity but it's more than that. We need to attract the right people into the right jobs and that's why we concentrate on peoples' abilities to do the job.

Okay, we're not perfect but we're keen to learn and grow. We are looking for a diverse and talented range of individuals to help move the Council services forward. You won't believe the range of jobs on offer. We have 100s of professions from accountants and teachers to landscape gardeners and Chefs. The variety of jobs is only matched with the rich mix of over 50,000 individuals we employ and that's where you come in. It's about time you seriously thought about applying for a job with us.

True, you might need to wait for the job you want but are you looking in the right place? Visit our web site at www.birmingham.gov.uk/jobs, or pick up the 'Birmingham Voice' by telephoning 0121 303 2154 or visit a Birmingham Library or Leisure Centre where copies are available.

Go on have a look, you might like what you see.



We welcome applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability. Job sharers welcome, no partner necessary.



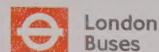
Help shape the future of London's bus network

As an integral part of the Mayor's Transport Strategy, the capital's bus services are to undergo major development - providing new and exciting challenges for our organisation. Responsible for planning, procuring and monitoring London's bus services, we're becoming more efficient than ever before.

Attracting the best talents from London's diverse communities will enhance our prospects of providing a safe, efficient and economically sound transport system.

To find out about our current vacancies, call 020 7918 3287/3251 or visit our website at www.transportforlondon.gov.uk/jobs

Transport for London values the diversity which exists in our city and aspires to this being reflected in our workforce



TransportforLondon

EASY-BATHER, NEVER used, £1,000 new. Would cost £200 to install, will accept £300. Tel: 01273 476813.

NEW, CHILTERN WISPA ceiling hoist: £800. Shower chair: £100. Tel P Kumar: 020 8661 2585.

BISON BEDE STAIRLIFT £1,000 - or swap for scooter or car. Tel: 01243 779712.

• Help

DISABLED PHD STUDENT at Northumbria University is looking at the sexual abuse of disabled children using the life stories of adult survivors and would like to hear

from any disabled adult interested in sharing their stories and opinions. All information you give to the researcher will be confidential and you should have already spoken to someone about the abuse. For further information contact Martina Higgins, PO Box 606, YORK YO32 5YT or email: martinahiggins@tesco.net

• Combined

DUE TO BEREAVEMENT: celebrity 4 wheel scooter, one year old, hardly used, £600. Stannah chair lift, straight 14 ft run, Offers? Endres bathlift makes daily bathing possible £200. Tel: 020 8444 2397 (London).

CHOICE IN HACKNEY

An Advocacy Service run by and for disabled people in Hackney wishes to recruit a disabled person as an

Advocacy Worker

17.5 hours per week - £10,824 pa (£21,648 pro rata)

To work in partnership with disabled people aged 16+ and link individuals to all the services they require in order to maintain control over their own lives. The post is funded by the Bridge House Estates Trust fund. We are also seeking permanent Sessional Workers to work one day per week. For further details and an application pack, also available on tape, disc, in braille and large print upon request, please contact:

Telephone: 0207 613 3206

Minicom: 0207 613 3208

Fax: 0207 739 8599

Email: choice_in_hackney@lineone.net

CHOICE IN HACKNEY

2nd FLOOR, D BLOCK

ST LEONARDS PCT

NUTTALL STREET

LONDON N1 5LZ

Closing date for completed applications is 4pm on Friday 21st June 2002.

CHOICE IN HACKNEY is an equal opportunities employer.

Reg. Charity 1077287.

• Children's equipment

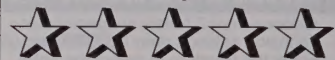
HORACEK KIMBA3261 PUSHCHAIR, tilt-in-space model with head support, thorax pads, 4 point harness, footstraps and tray. Excellent condition. Sale due to change in user's posture needs. £1,850 when new in 1998, consider £599 or other offers. Suitable age 4 to 10. Tel: 0118 9420319.

CHILD'S RED BOBCAT, 4 years old, suits 3 years upwards. In good working order. Has standing frame and raise/lower seat. Cost £10,000 new, want £500 ono. Tel: 01525 713880.

CHILD'S BLUE MINI Jazzy wheelchair with Freedom seating. Suits child 3 years upwards. In excellent condition, hardly used. Cost £5,000 new, want £750 ono. Tel: 01525 713880.

• Holidays (cont'd)

Great self-catering in South West Wales
Sŵn-y-Gwynt Cottage
Sleeps 4, fabulous views, flawless luxury. TV, linen, power all included.
Tel: 01267 237261
E-mail: antony.griew@virgin.net
Accessibility Grade 1



LUXURY CHALET IN POOLE, DORSET

Beautiful views. Disabled friendly.

Ring Jill for Brochure

Tel: 01525 379349 after 6pm.

Mobil: 07811 067634 (day)

Book early to avoid disappointment.

30% OFF!
Expires July 31 2002

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NO more waiting for accessible taxis to show, just wheel in and go.

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- ✓ Unlimited Kilometres
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- ✓ Full Comprehensive Insurance Included
- ✓ Daily & Hourly Hire
- ✓ Real-time Availability
- ✓ Raised Roof
- ✓ Lift Equipped Toyota HiAce

Serving Gold Coast & Brisbane

Freedom Wheels Rentals

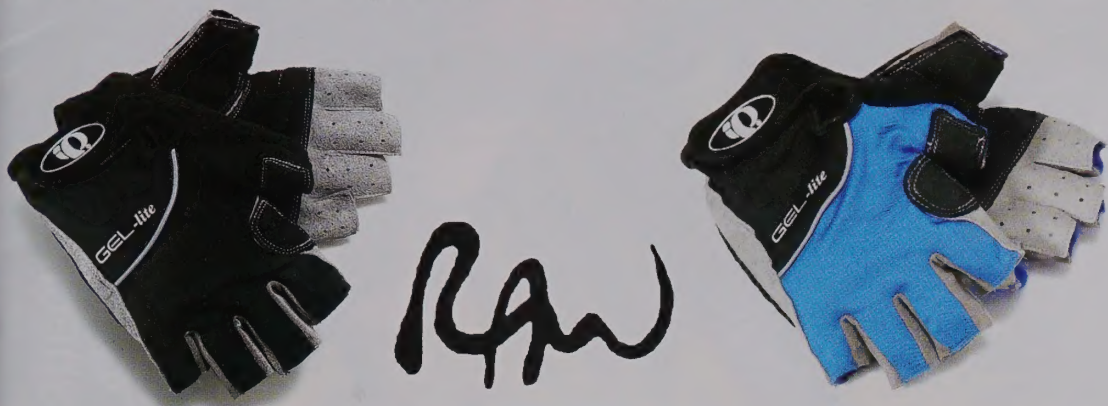
We take your wheels for a ride.

18 Cessnock Close, Mermaid Waters, QLD 4218
Tel: 61.7.5554 5132 • Australia • Fax: 61.7.5554 5987
Email: info@freedomwheelsrentals.com
Website: www.freedomwheelsrentals.com

DISCLAIMER - DN is not responsible for claims made in the adverts it prints. Readers are advised to check claims with advertisers before relying on them.

GET A GRIP!

The stylish Pearl Izumi range of gloves is rated highly by cyclists and wheelchair users alike. The top-quality Gel Lite full gloves, which provide incredible sheer grip with no resistance, are available in ladies and gents sizes and DN has 6 pairs (worth £25 each) up for grabs, courtesy of Raw Experience Ltd. For revolutionary technology at your fingertips, enter our give-away, or for more information on Pearl Izumi products, contact Raw Experience on 0131 4296790.



to enter Tick the competition circle below, add your details, and send FOR FREE to *Disability Now*, Freepost WD4323, London N7 9BR, or you can fax it on 020 7619 7331, or e-mail the details to: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

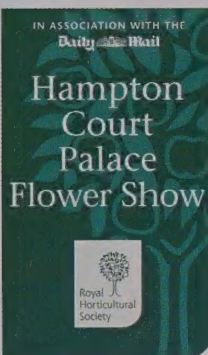
☐ Gloves ☐ RHS ☐ Atlas ☐ xdm ☐ Easipark
☐ Cooler ☐ Disc ☐ DDA



terms & conditions

• Closing date for offers: 28.06.2002 • Entrants must be over 18 • No proof of purchase required • UK entrants only • No cash alternatives • Winners notified by post • Editor's decision is final • Special offers not open to DN staff or associates • Winners may be announced in DN • In association with Raw Experience Ltd, the Royal Horticultural Society, The AA, Save and Drive, the Disabled Drivers' Association and Cyclone Mobility, and we may use your name and address for further marketing purposes. Please tick the box if you do not wish your details to be included ☐

FLOWER SHOWS



The Royal Horticultural Society invites DN readers to experience the wonder of the world's most famous flower shows in 2002. Once again, the RHS has given us two pairs of tickets to the Hampton Court and Tatton shows (worth £40 a pair and £34 a pair respectively).

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 2-7 July 2002

East Molesey, Surrey

Hampton Court Palace and its surrounding parkland provide an idyllic setting for this friendly and accessible gardening event. There's an exciting range of flowers, plants and gardening accessories, giving you the chance to browse and buy.

With over 20 show and water gardens, and one of the greatest gatherings of roses in full bloom the world has ever seen, this RHS Show guarantees a glorious summer's day out for everyone.

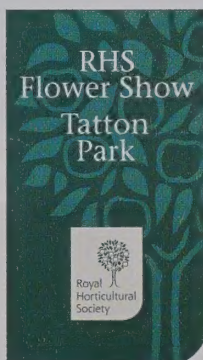
RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park 17-21 July 2002

Knutsford, Cheshire

Cheshire's Tatton Park provides a picturesque setting for the most recently established RHS Flower Show. Floral elegance is showcased in a relaxed and friendly environment, making it the perfect day out for everyone. Innovative show gardens, the RHS Britain in Bloom flower bed competition, teamed floral displays, talks and demonstrations, plus many opportunities to purchase, will offer you plenty of inspiration to take home with you. This is the NorthWest's floral event of the season.

For a chance to win tickets to either show, complete and return the coupon above, right.

However, if you don't want to miss out, tickets are on sale now. Call the ticket hotlines for more information. Hampton Court Palace Flower Show: 0870 906 3791 RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park: 0870 906 3811 (£1.50 booking fee per transaction) Or book online at www.rhs.org.uk



THE NATIONAL TRUST

ACCESS FOR ALL

The National Trust welcomes visitors with disabilities to its superb historic buildings, gardens, countryside and coast in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

'Information for Visitors with Disabilities 2002' is now available.

For this information booklet giving access details and information on adapted cottages please send a 39p stamp to:

The National Trust Membership Department,
PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent BR1 3XL

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

DN next month



A trip on the London frog.

All the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 29 June.



SURVIVOR

How people cope with disability caused by a major disaster.



COMMONWEALTH GAMES

It's here – and it's the first time disabled people will be included.



OUT AND ABOUT

DN's annual summer feature kicks off with exploring national nature reserves and a trip on the London frog.



MY NIGHT OUT

Disabled people welcome? Place accessible? Dan Batten will oversee proceedings for the next 6 months.

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